

THE JOURNAL

ay, January 28, 2005

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Sports Gaucho girls post pair of wins [C1]

Arts & Leisure Aspiring conductor featured on piano in Berkeley concert [C8]

Cinema slated for center stage

he Cerrito Theater, with a plan for devices the disabled, could be by the end of this year

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The Cerrito Theater project is expected to get ground in May and open business between December and March 2006, city officials say.

The theater renovations were expected to begin with groundbreaking in January but have been delayed several months due to changes in the architectural plans and lack of city staff available during the recent holidays, development manager Lori Marino said.

The redevelopment agency theater operator are now expected to select a contractor by May 1 and begin construction month later.

It's going slower than we expected but it's still happening," Marino said.

Earlier this week, architectural plans were still being final-

TIMELINE

June 2002: Redevelopment Agency purchases Cerrito Theater building for \$520,000.

May 2003: The agency signs a lease agreement with Parkway Speakeasy Theaters, loaning the theater operator \$2.47 million for renovations.

January 2004: The agency grants an additional \$1.049 million for the project.

May 1, 2005: Theater renovations expected to begin

December 2005 to March 2006: Opening night

ized for the two-screen theater, said architect Jerri Holan, who's working on the project with architect Arnie Lerner.

"We're pretty much on schedule," said Holan, adding that architectural plans were revised to incorporate devices for the disabled.

These will include special equipment for those with hearing or vision impairments. The

See CINEMA, Page A8



AT PRESENT, a revamped Cerrito Theater exists only in the conceptual drawing stage.

New chamber leader puts education to work

incoming president is to use her marketing expertise to pump new life into the nearly 70-year-old chamber of Commerce

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — As a graduate student earning her MBA in early 1990s, Lisa Cain ended the marketing courses she so much that she would earn a doctorate in the subject.

She's now using her marketing expertise in her new position as president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

"I'm looking forward to helping the chamber move ahead on marketing and technology fronts next year," said Cain, 40-year-old principal of Page-It, an Internet marketing and design firm she runs out of Kensington home with husband Aaron Goble.

Cain, installed as chamber president on Jan. 11, is part of a group of small business owners pumping new life into the 69-year-old organization.

The chamber has about 240



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

LISA CAIN, the new board president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, runs a web design company out of her Kensington home and teaches courses at UC Berkeley.

members, mostly small businesses, and 17 board positions, five of which are executive positions, said chamber office secretary Pat Berndt.

Cain has a bachelor's degree

in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware and spent eight years in the sales and marketing department of an industrial gas company, until 1994.

She then earned her master's

degree in business administration from the University of Delaware and in 2001 a doctorate in marketing from the Uni-

See CHAMBER, Page A8

Albany school board praises task force

■ The group reported on drug and alcohol use and suggested more funding to work with students

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

Although there was no official action to take, the Albany school board expressed support for the work of the district's drug and alcohol task force, which presented a report at Tuesday's meeting.

The drug and alcohol task force recommended increased funding for counselors at continuation school MacGregor High School and maintaining qualified teachers and counselors at other schools to "work directly with students," as part of a comprehensive effort to address student drug and alcohol use.

"Ultimately, we need to get you (the board) involved because we can't fund this with parents (applying for) grants," said parent Robin Woodland, the coordinator for the parent-driven task force.

In early January the task force

released a survey of Albany High School students showing that 41 percent of students are occasional users, meaning they've used various drugs and/or alcohol within the past six months, as often as one time a month.

And 16 percent are frequent users, meaning they use drugs one or more times a week.

Woodland told the board that the task force's main concern was habitual use of drugs and alcohol, particularly dangerous drugs, as well as drinking and driving.

"This isn't about the occasional beer at a party and this isn't about 'I tried a joint at a party once,'" Woodland said, adding that a small percentage of students said they use "very dangerous" drugs.

"The truth is as parents, as a community, as a school district, we're not doing a really good job in dealing with this issue ...," he said. "The point of the task force is to do better."

The task force has already moved on several initiatives to deal with teen drinking and drug

See TASK FORCE, Page A8

Road-rage link eyed in shootings of 3

By Karl Fischer

STAFF WRITER

RICHMOND — A possible road-rage incident in south Richmond left at least two people in gunshot wounds and five in need of major repairs Tuesday morning.

A teenage girl who appeared at a hospital emergency room minutes later with a gunshot wound also may have been injured during the altercation, police said. All the victims are expected to live.

Residents along South 56th Street near Jefferson Avenue reported gunfire about 1:45 a.m., police Sgt. Enos Johnson said. Moments later, a white station wagon raining two shooting victims into the parking lot of a San Joaquin diner in El Cerrito. The victims, two men and two women, told police they spent the

evening dancing in San Francisco and were heading to a Carlson Boulevard hotel when a red Toyota or Nissan containing three men followed them off Interstate 80.

The victims said the red car pulled alongside and, without provocation, bumped their station wagon as they drove north on South 56th Street. One or two men inside the red car then fired more than 30 rounds at the station wagon over a three-block span, hitting the car six times.

A 39-year-old man and his 19-year-old son were both wounded on the arm, police said. They were treated and released from Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo.

Both vehicles struck five parked cars near the South 56th Street terminus at Potrero Avenue. As the red car sped away, the station wagon headed to the diner in

search of help.

At 3:17 a.m., as officers investigated the earlier incident, two men brought a wounded teenage girl to Doctors Medical Center with a gunshot wound on her hip. The men left before authorities arrived. Johnson did not know the victim's age. She was flown to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, where she underwent emergency surgery Wednesday morning.

Detectives have not determined whether the girl's wounding and the earlier shooting are related, Johnson said. Nor have they found a motive in the roadway shooting. Police ask anyone with information about either case to call Detective Mitch Peixoto at 510-620-6614.

Reach Karl Fischer at 510-262-2728 or kfischer@ctimes.com

City lauded for customer service

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Residents wanting a business license or permit to open a business should have an easier time now than they did a year ago at City Hall.

The city was recently given a "most improved" award for its business permitting from the Contra Costa Economic Partnership, a coalition of business, government and education leaders dedicated to maintaining the county's quality of life. "We're trying everything we can — if you have to come down to City Hall — to make it as easy as it can be," said Mary Dodge, the city's finance director.

The city has apparently made great strides in the ease of its permitting. In 2004, it received a score of 79 out of 100, up from a score of about 13.2.

That's a "500 percent" increase over the previous year, wrote Linda Best, the executive director of the economic partnership, in a letter to the El



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

CAROL WALLACE helps Sophia Rivera of Albany with a transaction at the customer service area of El Cerrito City Hall.

Cerrito city manager.

The partnership uses an anonymous "mystery shopper" to test out cities' permitting, which is then judged on a variety of criteria. The two most important, said Best, are the interaction with the employees at the front desk and how well informed that person is.

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INSIDE

Arts

■ Berkeley composer writes opera with a megaton subject: the atomic bomb. Page C8

Community Theater

■ Contra Costa Civic stages elegantly appointed version of "The Mousetrap." Page C8



Martin Snapp

■ Past Piedmont birdcallers have their own memories of a classy Johnny Carson. Page A3

Police Reports

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Stricter wireless ordinance recommended

At its Tuesday, Jan. 25 meeting, the Albany planning and zoning commission recommended a new wireless communication facilities ordinance for approval by the City Council.

The recommended ordinance makes it more difficult for wireless communication facilities to be erected in residential zones and schools and parks, said Nan Wishner, the spokeswoman for cell-towerfreealban.org.

In November, the City Council extended a moratorium on wireless communication antennas to April 17.

In December, the council upheld an appeal opposing a joint plan by Nextel Communications and MetroPCS to build nine cell phone antennas on top of the former Jerome Blank Realty Building at 1530 Solano Ave.

James Heard, the attorney for MetroPCS, objected to the changes in the wireless ordinance. In a letter, Heard wrote that "MetroPCS will have no choice but to challenge the ordinance, in addition to pursuing other legal remedies for the improper denial," if the Solano Avenue wireless facility is blocked as result of the new ordinance.

— Alan Lopez

AP classes on community agenda

A community conversation about advanced placement classes will be held Wednesday, Feb. 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Albany High School library, 603 Key Route Blvd. El Cerrito High School advanced placement teacher Joan Cone will talk about her experience opening up access to AP classes at that school.

The forum is sponsored by the Albany High School parent education committee, comprised of parents Merry Sell, Deborah Krow, Monica Frame and Monica Hazlewood; and Albany High School teachers Shana Ferguson, Lois Peterson and Karla Brundage. For more details call 510-524-1898 or e-mail merrysell@earthlink.net.

— Alan Lopez

El Cerrito

Peet's Coffee may pour in new building

Peet's Coffee and Tea and Nextel Communications are set to lease space in a new commercial building at 9889 San Pablo Ave., according to a recent El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

The newsletter reported that ground is expected to be broken for the project before the end of February.

The project received design review approval in August and is now seeking a building permit for the single-story 3,768-square-foot commercial structure at San Pablo Avenue and Carlson Boulevard.

Plans call for two existing driveways on the site to be reconfigured to allow better traffic circulation and 16 parking spaces to be provided — three more than the code requires.

Since the project was characterized as in-fill development consistent with the city's general plan and zoning ordinance, no environmental impact report was necessary, the chamber reports.

— Alan Lopez

City needs more solar, says Green Party

El Cerrito Green Party members are pushing for greater use of solar power in the city.

Members want the city to install solar panels on city buildings, particularly if a new city hall is built; and to remove a provision in the utility users tax that could allow the city to tax solar energy.

Green Party member David Marin said the city is working to create an energy task force and use its Web site to inform residents and businesses about installing solar systems.

Green members met last week with Mayor Sandi Potter and the assistant to the city manager and have drafted the informational packet "Becoming a Solar City." For more information, call 510-235-5508.

— Alan Lopez

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ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Jan. 17

■ **NO BAIL WARRANT** — Officers arrested a 26-year-old Richmond man near San Jose and San Joaquin streets in El Cerrito for a no-bail Alameda County warrant for auto theft and a \$10,000 Solano County warrant for driving without a license and violation of promise to appear. He was taken to Santa Rita Jail.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — Officers stopped a bicycle rider for a traffic violation on the 500 block of Pierce Street. The rider, a 28-year-old Richmond man, did not cooperate with officers and was found to be in possession of a controlled substance. He was also found to have an outstanding Contra Costa County warrant for two counts of drug possession, two counts of delaying an officer and threatening an officer. He was taken to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **TOYOTA AND FORD ESCORT STOLEN** — A blue 1985 Toyota pickup was stolen from the 1000 block of Evelyn Avenue and a black 1993 Ford Escort was stolen from the 800 block of Kains Avenue.

■ **AUTO BREAK-INS** — Overnight a 1997 Honda Civic in the 800 block of Ramona Avenue, and a 1986 Honda Prelude in the 1100 block of Stagnare Avenue were burgled.

■ **BURGLARY** — A burglary was reported in the 900 block of Kains Avenue.

■ **FORGERY** — A business on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue reported a customer attempted to pass a stolen check and was scheduled to return the next day to pick up the merchandise. The next morning officers arrested a 41-year-old Richmond man for resisting an officer, forgery and possession of stolen property. He was taken to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **UNSUCCESSFUL SCAM** — At about 4:45 p.m. officers were called to the Bank of America on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue on reports from an employee that a customer was the victim of a possible scam. An 89-year-old man had been approached in the Costco parking lot by two men who said they wanted to deposit \$80,000 into the victim's bank account but wanted \$3,000 in "good faith" money. The subjects were in the bank parking lot in the victim's

car. When officers arrived, they fled but one was apprehended. Officers arrested a 41-year-old Antioch man for obtaining money under false pretenses, elder abuse, delaying an officer and trespassing.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — A green 1987 Toyota Camry in the 1000 block of Evelyn Avenue was burgled and items taken.

■ **BLOODY FIGHT** — At about 10 p.m. officers went to the 1000 block of Kains Avenue on reports of a fight between several subjects. Two subjects had left and officers talked with a 20-year-old Albany man still at the scene. The subject claimed he had been attacked by two subjects and he defended himself by stabbing the attackers with a knife. He was found to be in possession of a large amount of marijuana for sale and was arrested for being in possession of a deadly weapon; possession of marijuana for sale and possession of drugs. A few minutes after this call another caller reported his son and a friend had just been stabbed by an unknown subject they said was trying to rob them. They were taken to the hospital.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about 2 p.m. officers arrested a 22-year-old El Cerrito man in the 1100 block of Kains Avenue for an outstanding \$1,003 Livemore warrant for two accounts of failure to appear.

■ **HOME BREAK-IN** — A resident on the 900 block of Solano Avenue returned home to find her apartment had been burgled and items stolen.

■ **ROBBERY** — At about 10:30 p.m. a video store on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue was robbed at gunpoint by two men.

Thursday, Jan. 20

■ **DUI** — At about 3 a.m. officers arrested a 24-year-old Kensington man driving a white 1995 Ford near Clay Street and San Pablo Avenue for DUI.

■ **OUT OF STATE WARRANT** — At about 11 a.m. officers arrested a 27-year-old Albany man for an out of state warrant after stopping his brown Oldsmobile for a vehicle code violation near Ramona and Lynn avenues in El Cerrito. He was arrested for the warrant and for driving without a license.

■ **MAIL STOLEN** — A resident on

the 700 block of Curtis Street reported someone stole her mail the previous day.

■ **WALLET STOLEN** — An El Sobrante woman reported her wallet stolen while she was at a business on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue and that the thieves were charging on it within 10 minutes of the theft.

Friday, Jan. 21

■ **APARTMENT BREAK-IN** — An apartment in the 800 block of Kains Avenue was burgled overnight.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — A blue Toyota pickup was stolen from the 1000 block of Evelyn Avenue.

■ **LICENSE PLATE STOLEN** — A front license plate was stolen off a black 1992 Ford Escort.

Saturday, Jan. 22

■ **DUI** — Around midnight officers stopped a 1991 Honda Accord near Solano and Stagnare avenues for a vehicle code violation. A 37-year-old Alameda man was arrested for DUI.

■ **STOLEN VEHICLE ARREST** — At about 12:30 a.m. officers located a white 2005 Oldsmobile Cutlass near Solano Avenue and Curtis Street that was stolen out of Richmond. They arrested an 18-year-old Richmond man for possession of stolen property, misappropriation of found property, possession of drugs without a prescription and an outstanding warrant for drug possession charges.

■ **DRUGS, WEAPON** — At about noon officers responded to the Target Store in the 1100 block of Eastshore on reports of two subjects purchasing large quantities of Sudafed. They arrested a 25-year-old Oakland man for possession of a weapon and possession of a controlled substance. He was hospitalized for evaluation.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — Officers responded to Golden Gate Fields on reports of a subject being detained for yelling obscenities at passersby and refusing to leave. A 28-year-old Illinois man was arrested for disorderly conduct and held to be released when sober.

Sunday, Jan. 23

■ **FORD ESCORT RECOVERED** — Officers located a green 1994 Ford Escort in the 800 block of Hillside Av-

enue reported as stolen on Monday.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — Officers responded to the area Solano and Kains avenues of a subject who appeared intoxicated, had taken his car was rumbling around in the Albany Theater. Officers located the 33-year-old Novato man outstanding San Francisco warrants for \$528 for violating promise to appear.

■ **EGGING** — A resident in the 1000 block of Curtis Street that his house had been egged by vandals during the night.

■ **FORD ESCORT STOLEN** — About 10 p.m. a Richmond man reported his white 1995 Ford had been stolen at 5 p.m. at Alta and Solano avenues.

■ **NO-BAIL WARRANT** — Stopped a 35-year-old Richmond man riding a bike on the 500 block of Pierce Street for a traffic violation was found to have a No Bail warrant from Contra Costa County arrested.

■ **PALM PILOT STOLEN** — About 10:30 p.m. a woman that a man stole her son's while he was at a Solano laundry. The son ran home, mother and the subject was when they returned to the

Monday, Jan. 24

■ **ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN** — On the 900 block of Kains Avenue called at about 9:30 a.m. again at about 10:30 a.m. that a man known to have been in Albany warrants was trying to enter their house. Officers saw a 19-year-old San Leandro man

Summary

During the week of January 17 through January 23, 2005, there were 140 calls for police services, 100 calls for fire services, and 10 calls for ambulance services. The most common calls were for vehicle accidents, followed by domestic disputes, and then for drug possession. There were 10 calls for animal control services, 10 calls for fire services, and 10 calls for ambulance services. There were 10 calls for police services, 10 calls for fire services, and 10 calls for ambulance services.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Friday, Jan. 14

■ **COUNTERFEIT** — A 20-year-old Berkeley man was arrested on suspicion of attempting to pass a counterfeit \$100 bill at Jack in the Box on the 5900 block of Cutting Boulevard shortly after 12:25 p.m. Police apprehended the man after a short foot chase and said he possessed \$600 worth of counterfeit bills. He was booked on suspicion of burglary, possession of counterfeit bills and resisting arrest.

■ **VEHICLE BREAK-INS** — Four Toyota Tacomas were broken into between Jan. 14 and Jan. 22. Change was taken from one vehicle on the first block of Carmel Avenue between Jan. 14 and Jan. 15. The glove compartments of three other Toyota Tacomas were ransacked with no loss. They occurred on the 7200 block of Lincoln Avenue between 5 p.m. on Jan. 21 and 7 a.m. the next day; the 100 block of Pomona Avenue between 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 and 4 p.m. on Jan. 23; and on the 200 block of Pomona Avenue between 9 p.m. on Jan. 21 and 8:30 a.m. the next day.

Saturday, Jan. 15

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1987 Mercedes-Benz 300 was taken from the 11800 block of San Pablo Avenue between Jan. 15 and Jan. 19.

Monday, Jan. 17

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A stereo and man's jacket were taken from a vehicle on the 5500 block of McDonald Avenue between 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 17 and 5:20 a.m. the next day.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A black 1994 BMW 840i two-door was stolen between 11:55 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. on the 800 block of Contra Costa Drive after the keys were left in the ignition and the engine was running.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 15-year-old was arrested on suspicion of stealing a blue four-door 1986 Toyota Corolla from the 700 block of Pomona Avenue between 7:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Jan. 18. The vehicle was recovered on the 500 block of Ashbury Avenue at noon on Jan. 19.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

■ **ROBBERY** — Two men robbed Carrows Restaurant at gunpoint at 9:58 p.m. Police said it appeared that the men went on to rob Albany Blockbuster Video a few minutes later, then the adult bookstore at San Pablo Avenue at Mooser Lane.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1993 Honda Civic was recovered on the 6400 block of Knott Avenue at 11:23 p.m. The vehicle had been reported stolen to Vallejo police.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Documents and personal identification were taken from a Honda Accord on the 900 block of Lexington Avenue between 5 p.m. on Jan. 19 and noon the next day.

Thursday, Jan. 20

■ **ROBBERY** — A man robbed the Ross clothing store at El Cerrito Plaza at 5:10 p.m. The man forcibly removed currency from the cashier's hand as the cashier was taking cash out of the drawer.

■ **BURGLARY** — Coins and clothing were taken from an apartment on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue between 4:05 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

■ **BURGLARY** — Property was taken from a home on the 1100 block of King Drive between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

■ **BURGLARY** — A set of keys was taken from a home on the 800 block of Seaview Drive at noon while the resident was inside.

Friday, Jan. 21

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1990 Honda Accord was taken from a parking lot

on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue between 10 p.m. on Jan. 21 and 9:30 a.m. the next day.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A green 1997 Honda Accord was taken from the 1900 block of Key Boulevard between 8 p.m. on Jan. 21 and 9:15 a.m. the next day.

■ **ATTEMPTED VEHICLE THEFT** — An attempt was made to hot wire a Honda Accord on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue between 9 p.m. on Jan. 21 and 9:45 a.m. the next day.

Saturday, Jan. 22

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A cell phone was taken from a Chevrolet Monte Carlo on the 11200 block of San Pablo Avenue between 7:45 and 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 23

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A red two-door 1988 Honda Civic was taken from the 2000 block of Junction Avenue between 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 and 8 a.m. the next day.

■ **VANDALISM** — The Mira Vista Country Club was vandalized at around 10:45 p.m. Several panes of

glass in the southernmost building were smashed using rocks. The glass window and glass bars were broken and numerous liquors were smashed or spilled.

Monday, Jan. 24

■ **ATTEMPTED PURSE SNATCH** — A female juvenile attempted to snatch a woman's purse on Hill Street near Lexington Avenue as the woman was walking home from the DART station at 8 p.m. The woman asked the woman for money, then fled after unsuccessfully trying to grab her purse.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A blue 1995 Honda Odyssey was recovered on the 6600 block of Reka Avenue at 8:45 a.m. The had been stolen from the 1000 block of Elm Court between 8:15 a.m. the previous day.

■ **ROBBERY** — After ordering a man pointed a gray revolver at a woman and demanded money. Taco Bell on the 11900 block of San Pablo Avenue at 8:25 p.m. The man ran southbound after getting police said.

THE JOURNAL

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Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, Hills

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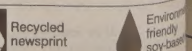
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Carson was gracious to student birdcallers

JOHNNY CARSON'S death was felt especially strongly in Piedmont, where two decades of student birdcallers fondly remember his kindness when they were on his show. They have less fond memories of Ed McMahon, but that's another story.)

Every year from 1975 until retired in 1992, Carson flew to Piedmont from the annual Piedmont High School Birdcalling Contest, along with his faculty sponsor, Leonard Waxdeck, to Burbank to appear on "The Tonight Show." He treated them like royalty every moment that they were there, starting with the stretch limo he sent to the airport to pick them up.

They were perfect foils for famous Carson wit, such as the 1986 show, when Tim McLean and his brother, Nathan, did the call of the common murre, which sounds like a long, loud belch. Quick as a flash, Carson quipped, "I feel sorry for their parsi!"

Or the 1978 show, when Jim Frawley shrieked the mating call of the snowy egret, and Carson said, "Gosh! That was exciting, I want to mate with Jim myself!"

An annual pre-show ritual was lunch at the NBC commissary, the Hungry Peacock, which, despite Carson's constant jokes about the food, was excellent. After each show, Waxdeck always chose the first, second and third place winners, plus all the graduating seniors.

By contrast, Carson let Waxdeck make the choice, and Waxdeck always chose the first, second and third place winners, plus all the graduating seniors.

Carson also let the kids perform their humorous introductory skit; Letterman just wants them to do the calls, period. The first thing they're told at rehearsal is, "Let Dave make the jokes."

Most significantly, Letterman invariably cuts one act at the last second, just before the taping begins. Every year four acts fly to New York, but only three make it on the air.

The kids who get axed are always good sports about it. And everyone at Piedmont High is sincerely grateful to Letterman for giving the students a showcase.

But I still can't help thinking: Johnny would have never done something so callous. He had too much class.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@ccetimes.com.



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

tack two years later. It looked like the birdcalling contest, which had been a tradition since 1963, was over.

But the students themselves refused to let it die. In 1998 it made a triumphant comeback; the only thing missing was the annual appearance on "The Tonight Show."

There was no hope of that. Jay Leno was so intent in carving out his own identity, he wouldn't touch anything associated with Carson with a 10-foot pole.

But David Letterman, who appeared on Carson, was more than willing to have the kids on his show. And there they have appeared every year since.

But there are a few differences. For one thing, Letterman chooses which acts will fly to New York for the show. The birdcallers don't know who will go until a week after the contest, after Letterman's producers have seen a tape of the competition. Sometimes, none of the winners makes the cut.

By contrast, Carson let Waxdeck make the choice, and Waxdeck always chose the first, second and third place winners, plus all the graduating seniors.

Carson also let the kids perform their humorous introductory skit; Letterman just wants them to do the calls, period. The first thing they're told at rehearsal is, "Let Dave make the jokes."

Most significantly, Letterman invariably cuts one act at the last second, just before the taping begins. Every year four acts fly to New York, but only three make it on the air.

The kids who get axed are always good sports about it. And everyone at Piedmont High is sincerely grateful to Letterman for giving the students a showcase.

But I still can't help thinking: Johnny would have never done something so callous. He had too much class.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@ccetimes.com.

FACES & PLACES

El Cerrito Scout earns Eagle rank

Tony Duffy of El Cerrito Boy Scout Troop 104 has advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting. His Eagle service project has given the kids at Peter Pan Preschool in El Cerrito a new, multi-themed playhouse. The new structure includes a functional post office, a monkey cage or jail, window boxes with fresh flowers and a large painted mural on one side.

Since he and his sister attended the same preschool, he was able to draw on his memories of favorite but long-gone play structures in the design of the playhouse.

Duffy, now 18, joined Cub Scout Pack 104 as a first-grader. He is now a freshman at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, and has plans to transfer to UC Berkeley.

Other Scouts advancing in rank include Jed Hubbard (Life Scout), Joe Clopp and Zachary Houser (First Class), Mark Kolding (Second Class) and Tim Clopp and Willie Gaebler (Tenderfoot).

All were recognized at the troop's Fall Court of Honor.

Founded in 1939, Boy Scout Troop 104 has earned the honor of being named Mt. Diablo Silverado Council's "Presidential Troop" for the past four



Tony Duffy

years. This recognition is earned by rating highest in an annual contest of skills among all troops throughout Contra Costa County. The troop is currently led by scoutmaster Scott Houser.

John Montanero has accepted the baton at the Contra Costa Choral, taking over from Richard Kramer, who served as music director of that organization for more than 25 years.

A graduate of the Temple University Esther Boyer School of Music, Montanero has sung in university choirs with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of both Eugene Ormandy and Ricardo Muti, and with the New York Philharmonic under the direction of Leonard Bernstein and Zubin Mehta.



DEAN COPPOLASTAFF

A PASTA FUND-RAISER for the El Cerrito girls soccer team will feature homemade sauces prepared by junior varsity player Jenya Jawad's dad Jamal Jawad, left, and brother, Jared, 14. Members of the girls' varsity soccer team are in the background. The fourth annual Friends of Girls Soccer pasta dinner will be held Feb. 5 at the Kensington Community Center. Tickets are \$12 each or four for \$40. For more information call 510-526-4645 or 510-526-2278.

He studied choral and orchestral conducting at University of the Pacific then led the 150-voice Stockton Choral, an organization which, in addition to performing locally, toured nationally and internationally, as well as collaborating with the Stockton Symphony and the Stockton Opera Association. He is the director of the music program at St. Basil Church parish school in Vallejo, and directs the adult choir.

The chorus meets at 7:15 p.m. Mondays at the Hillside Community Church, in El Cerrito. Soprano-alto, and tenor-

bass sections meet alternate Wednesday evenings at El Cerrito Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton St. New members are welcome. No audition is required, although challenging music makes some sight-reading ability or previous choral experience valuable.

Rehearsals for March performances of Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzer, Opus 52, and Gerald Finz's Magnificat began Jan. 17.

For details call Marjorie Simmons, 510-524-1861.

Exercise can help balance as one gets older

Q: As I get older, I notice that my balance is becoming less and less reliable. Is this usual? What can I do to help myself feel more secure and possibly avoid a potential fall?

A: Our balance usually does get more precarious as we get older. It certainly is important to exercise care in performing the activities that must be carried out daily.

For example, when you go up and down stairs, be sure to use the handrail and do not try to hurry. Check through your home for potential hazards that could lead to problems. Do you have any small throw rugs on bare floors that might cause you to slip and fall? If so, there are ways of making them secure to the floor, but just removing them is probably a better solution. Becoming extremely aware of anything that could cause an accident in your home is of utmost importance.

Walking is often very good for older adults. If it is an appropriate activity for you, it could improve your endurance, and gaining more strength can help you to cope more ably with balance problems. Remember, however, if you take walks outdoors, be sure that you are aware of steps, and possible cracks or unevenness in sidewalks. You might consider using a walking stick to assure that you will be less likely to fall. Some people prefer to walk in a nearby shopping mall. The floors are certain



CONNIE LYNCH
Don't Lose Your Mind

to be even, and the shops provide interesting scenery.

There are also special classes for improving balance. Check your local senior centers, the YMCA or other programs in your area. For me, a class that was enormously helpful for my balance was tai chi. The movements are slow and very specific, and provided a wonderful basis for helping to keep me upright. Any other exercise, in general, that is at a level appropriate for you and helps build strength and fitness is also likely to help your balance.

Various exercises that may help you to practice balance can also be helpful, but be sure to try any of them where you can hold onto something to assure that you do not fall. I have been reading information from the University of Connecticut Health Center. They suggest specific exercises for strengthening muscles that will improve your balance. To strengthen calf muscles, hold a wall, chair, or the kitchen sink and raise yourself up and down on tiptoes, going higher as your strength improves, and eventually try one

foot at a time. Take extra trips up and down the stairs, holding carefully to the banister, and with the other hand pressed against the wall. This will strengthen your hips and thighs.

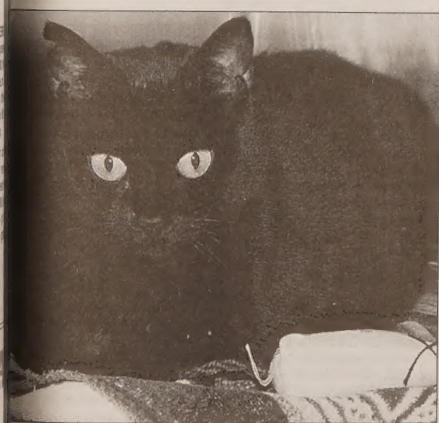
Find a clear corner in your home and stand with your back about a foot away from the corner. Place a chair in front of you for safety. Without bending at the waist, lean forward and shift your weight to the balls of your feet. Hold this position for 10 seconds. Use the chair for sup-

port, if necessary. Then shift your weight back to your heels.

If you try at least some of these activities, you may see an improvement in your balance.

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to conniemw@aol.com or call 510-466-5833. Lynch is founder of Mind Works, a mental fitness program for older adults, and author of "Don't Lose Your Mind, Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness."

OF THE WEEK



BERKELEY EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

RY is a 4-year-old female domestic short hair. She is an affectionate cuddlebug who will nestle into any lap that's made available to her," say workers at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society, where she may be available for adoption.

BERKELEY — The following cats may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society.

Dogs: male Labrador retriever-basset hound mix, 2 years; female lab mix, 2 years; border collie mix, 1 year; shepherd mix, 1 year; border collie mix, 1 year; Australian shepherd mix, 10 months; female treeing coonhound mix, 10 months; male Labrador retriever, 6 months; female Australian cat mix, 6 months; male Dalmatian mix, 5 months; female German mix, 4 months.

Cats: female black and white, 7 years; female dilute calico, 7 years; female brown tabby, 6

years; female dilute calico, 5 years; female white, 5 years; female black, 4 years; female dilute tortoiseshell, 4 years; female brown and white tabby, 3 years; female calico, 3 years; male tabby brown.

Rabbits: Female English spot mix, black and white, 4 years; female chinchilla mix brown agouti, 2 years; female Dutch mix, tan and white, 1 year.

Adoption fee: cats \$100; dogs \$125 — including spaying neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Information: 510-863-7272.

Free Appraisal Clinic
Wednesday, February 2nd
10am-2pm (limit 5 items)



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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should
a government without newspapers, or newspapers
without a government, I should not hesitate a moment
to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

VIEWPOINT

A creek runs through it

By Virginia K. Anderson

ACTUALLY, "it" runs through the creek — the creek in our back yard. "It" refers to any one of a number of items that we find caught in the metal grill where our creek goes underground.

"It" makes its way to here from who knows where — from the hillsides that the creek meanders down? — from the neighbor's yard three doors up?

"It" usually comes with heavy rains, particularly the first rains of the season.

"It" could be any of the odds and ends that every year somehow find their way into the creek and become caught in the minor torrents that carry them along until they reach our grill.

Then other debris — leaves, twigs, papers, flotsam and jetsam — gradually attach to "it," making a sizeable collection until a dam is formed, massive enough to hold back the water.

When that happens, we need to poke, jab and stir with various implements until the dam is broken apart, sending its elements on through the grill and out to the Bay.

And "it" must be removed from the creek bed.

Often "it" is simply a tree branch that has been knocked into the creek. But one time "it" turned out to be a wooden plank that was 4 feet long and 8 inches wide.

A 4-foot-long plank? Eight inches wide? From whose property? What had been its purpose?

Another time "it" was an arrow-shaped object that caused the flooding. One strip of wood had two other strips attached securely with duct tape at its end. What had it been pointing to?

The most perplexing of these "it" items didn't actually create a problem by covering the grill. It lay quietly in the creekbed, letting the water surge around it.

It looked like a large, white fluorescent light tube, similar to those on store ceilings.

Closer inspection, however, proved that "it" was a 9-foot plastic tube about 5 inches in diameter. At one end was a curved portion that could have formed a connection with something else. I took a photo of it, with a lawn chair in the background, to show the relative size.

Where had this been installed? And for what purpose? Perhaps as a water drain attached to a roof? But how had it angled its way down the very narrow north branch of our Codornices Creek — finally to lie quietly behind our house?

My son suggests that all of these "its" be placed in a little red wagon and pulled along the sidewalk. At each house we could knock on the door and ask, "Is one of these items yours?" There's no knowing how far up into the hills we'd have to go before we found an owner, though.

Apparently we have one of those unsolved mysteries on our hands — um, in our creek.

Virginia K. Anderson is a longtime Berkeley resident who makes sure to check her creek after a rainstorm.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District, El Cerrito, Kensington) 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 555, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; 925-932-8899 or 1034 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through www.house.gov/tauscher

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249; 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710; 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: Oakport@lgc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Steges Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District

217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

HOW MANY TIMES WILL YOU DO IT?

MA'AM YOU DATED
YOUR CHECK 2004.ISN'T THAT CLOSE
ENOUGH?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Expanding casino will affect many

The issues at the hearing this past Saturday at Contra Costa College, sponsored by Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, boiled down to two: more money and jobs for San Pablo residents as opposed to impacts on the community.

It emerged that the Native Indian tribe of 59 people was simply being used by Nevada gaming and slot machine manufacturers, the state of California, and people looking for jobs or municipal money.

In the rush to get approval of what would be a precedent-setting urban casino, considerations of traffic impacts on Interstate 80 and San Pablo Dam Road, San Pablo Avenue, and Vale Road (access to Doctors Hospital San Pablo) had been greatly minimized by those sponsoring the casino.

Also ignored had been the opinion of the local community. The hearing on Saturday was the first opportunity for those who could be affected to be heard.

What we are looking for here is some way other than gambling to finance the state deficit, the struggling cities, and the unemployed. California should be ashamed that it has come to this.

One person at the hearing offered the idea of somehow investing in small businesses that could supply much-needed jobs and generate taxes for state and local governments, something productive rather than a net loss for everyone.

There are many intelligent people in this area. We are waiting for your ideas!

Virginia Rice Mason
El Cerrito

America's last great discrimination

A week after the national remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr., Marriage Equality put on a summit conference to clarify the situation in the Freedom to Marry movement.

"Heterosexuals only" is the last great discrimination in America. Heterosexual married couples have 1,138 federal and some 300 California rights that homosexual couples do not have because marital status is denied them. Without these rights, gay families suffer substantial financial injury and personal misery.

Civil marriage is a contract between responsible adults. Gay people are claiming their equal right to this contract. If religion wishes to refuse rites to a same-sex couple, that is a spiritual matter, not a civil one, and religion is under no obligation to solemnize same-sex marriage. But religious thinking should not restrict the civil contract.

Marriage is a fundamental human right. Denying us this right puts us in an inferior category as human beings.

The marriage-license window is the present lunch counter in the civil rights movement. King would understand.

Please join other fair-minded people in supporting the Freedom to Marry. Find "Marriage Equality California" on the Web or phone its San Francisco headquarters at 415-581-0005.

Ron Deziel
El Cerrito

Fundamental decency

In the confirmation hearings of Condi Rice, Sen. Barbara Boxer, in her own inimitable manner, finds new ways of embarrassing herself and ridiculing the people she represents.

To essentially call Rice nothing more than a liar in the hearings strikes a new low in the left wing's post-election hysteria.

Boxer's behavior was, in fact, so bad that it subliminally suggested racism. Necessarily looking for a more acceptable explanation, perhaps Boxer behaves as she does only because she does not want to appear less shrewish than Nancy Pelosi or Barbara Lee.

That would be much better, because such an explanation would also go a long way in explaining to the rest of the country why being "gay" in California is so widely accepted, even justified.

Only the reserved dignity of Dianne Feinstein offers rebuttal.

D. L. Damon
El Cerrito

Extend BART here

The Interstate 80 corridor, Rodeo to the Bay Bridge, tops the list of commute hot spots in the Bay Area.

When will a BART extension be built for West County to take some of the traffic off the highway? West County residents have been paying an additional sales tax to support BART for more than 30 years but have very little service to show for the money.

All BART projects are planned for other areas, including going south to San Jose. Before the land available for a station disappears, BART service should be considered to ease the I-80 commute.

K. E. Cichanowski
El Cerrito

Tail wagging the dog?

I just got home from Loni Hancock's community meeting about the expansion of Casino San Pablo. I wish everyone could have been there.

The audience was as good as the speakers. For example, someone hit on the issue from a completely different angle.

Forget the other issues for a minute

WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. Maximum letter length is 300 words. Maximum op-ed length is 450 words.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

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and think about this. What is this typical business doing to the spirit of the people? After all, it was pointed out that the meeting that these casinos will be from out of town.

Also, the slot machines are only taken from the manufacturer in Nevada. The cost of those items is well over half the casino's income!

All of this is supposed to be for the benefit of the tribe, while, in fact, a lot of people in Nevada are taking a lot of money out of San Pablo at the expense of Lytton dignity. It's like those fundraising scams where the charity gets 5 percent of the take and the fund raiser gets the other 95 percent. In this case the fund raiser is the tail wagging the dog.

I thought it was a good point.

James J. El Cerrito

El Cerrito

Public hearing was the best

I want readers to know that the public hearing on the expansion of Casino San Pablo took three to four hours. After 60 years of sitting through hearings I must say that Assemblywoman Loni Hancock had the best organized and longest run hearing I ever attended.

It was crowded, very diverse and informative.

Jean M. El Cerrito

El Cerrito

Berkeley/Albany cooperation

On Jan. 25, the Berkeley City Council courageously voted 8-to-1 to join Albany in the experiment to reconfigure Marin Avenue.

This vote reflects their commitment to the safety of school kids, bicyclists, and all those no longer able to dash for their lives as they try to cross Marin.

This is a vote for safety over convenience. Although the engineering studies showed that the additional time to drive west from Colusa to San Pablo Avenue would range from nothing to about a minute, some opponents from the Marin side lobbied to prevent the change. Fear that they would be slowed on Marin; others feared traffic might be diverted onto the side streets.

After years of study, it became clear that re-engineering the street was the solution for safety and livability.

The Berkeley City Council carefully examined these engineering studies showing how this change would slow Marin traffic without any significant negative impacts (no diverting traffic; no significant delays).

It took courage to vote for safety in the face of these fears. The children of our Berkeley/Albany community can be proud of the Berkeley City Council for choosing wisely.

Robert C. Cheasty

Cheasty is a member of Marin Avenue Neighbors for Safety and a former mayor of Albany.

BRARY ACTIVITIES

The Albany Library will pre- a crafts program making al Valentines on Saturday 5, from 2-4 p.m. The accor- -shaped mini-books are en- in a CD cover. This event ee and open to all ages and estra: on required. All sup- will be provided and cook- will be served. This program pported by the Friends of the ny Library.

also at Albany: Preschool Stoe- is at 11 a.m. on Saturdays, drop-in and runs through 19, It's for ages 3 to 5.

chool Age Storytime is at 7 Tuesdays, and runs through 1. It's for school age chil- , 5 and up.

oth storytimes are drop-in. he next Friends of the Al- Library book sale will be Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. re is an ongoing book sale in library during open hours.

he Albany Library, a branch he Alameda County Library, cated at 1247 Marin Ave. For rmation on its services and rams, call 510-526-3720 ext.

he El Cerrito Library fea- marriage and family ther- Pete Walker, author of "The of Fully Feeling: Harvesting iveness Out of Blame" in a ing and discussion of healthy

CERRITO SCHOOL NOTES

Cerrito High School

LIST: Ms. Bloomer in room 814 is eperate need of a large screen -s down. If you may have one -s may have, contact her di- ly at 510-525-0234.

DEDUCTIONS: Those who do- d books to last year's used book -y may receive a receipt for a tax ction by sending an e-mail with r full name and address and est- ed value of the donation to: e_brown@yahoo.com.

EXPLAINED: There is a new online -s that reviews and explains red answers to last October's m. Students need to use their ket and score report. Log on to : www.collegeboard.com/pstatektr

P SIGN-UP: Most of the school's -rip contributions come from pur- as at Safeway. However, mer- ts such as Macys and Eddie er also contribute to the program.

an e-scrip credit card, parents -dd to those contributions. To -p up, go to www.escrip.com or -ct Rich Ivry, ECHS escrip coordi- r at ivry@scocrates.berkeley.edu or -237-3929.

AMI RELIEF: ECHS students and ol community have contributed -84 to Oxfam America for the -ni relief fund for South Asia and a. Fund-raising began in the Eng- lish-Development classes, h. One El Cerrito student lost 13 ves in the disaster, says ELD ner Patricia Chandler.

ling Elementary

RGARTEN TOUR: Meet the prin- , teachers, parents, and students -ding Elementary on Wednesday, 9, from 8:45 a.m.- 10:15 a.m. at -rding Park Clubhouse. Parents -our the kindergarten classrooms, - about plans to move into our -earthquake-safe school in fall - and enjoy coffee and pastries -ted by Starbucks and Semi- li. Harding is on Fairmount at -ury Avenue. Details: 510-525- r or http://www.hardingpta.org/

5 NIGHT COORDINATOR: The -ing PTA would like to partner with -ount PTA to offer a family movie - and needs a volunteer who likes -s and would enjoy working with - parents. Lisa Harris at 510-236- r or lisa.harris@acibary.org

ON CO-CHAIR/EVENT CO- -TOR: Parent volunteers are al- y working on the Spring Auction -ing a site and soliciting mer- -s for donations) but someone is -ed who enjoys planning parties -ood at details/organizing to -e the details that happen just -e and on the night of the event. -ordinator will have help but will

ways to learn from our emotional experiences, at 7 p.m. Feb. 15.

Walker is the director of the Lafayette Counseling Center and trains counselors for the 24-hour crisis hotline at Parental Stress Services in Oakland.

The library will conduct its "Pot O' Gold" Reading Club for children in first through sixth grade from through March 17. Children can read 10 books and earn prizes.

Readers Anonymous, the li- brary's book club, meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Copies of the current se- lection are available at the check- out desk. Next up: "Oryx and Crake," by Margaret Ele Atwood (Feb. 22).

The El Cerrito Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is located at 6510 Stockton Ave. For more infor- mation, call 510-526-7512.

The Kensington Library will present a poetry reading featur- ing Maggie Morley and friends, followed by an open mic on Mon- day, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. Light dessert and beverages will follow the performance.

The Kensington Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043.

need to work with a co-chair to recruit and organize parent "helpers" for the night of the event, make sure the tables are set up with bid sheets and items, decide what kind of food to serve and solicit it from parents or merchants, arrange for clean-up after the event, etc. For details contact Brenda Mitchell at 510-558-1578 or email hardingauction@yahoo.com.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL VOLUN- TEERS: Parents are needed to work with the principal and teachers to establish goals for improving student achievement at Harding. The SSC meets five times a year to monitor academic performance and decide how district funds and community re- sources will be used to assist students with special needs (GATE certified, English Learners, Special Ed, and educationally disadvantaged). Details: 510-525-0273 or come by the office.

—Source: El Cerrito school e-trees

ALBANY SCHOOL NEWS

Albany High School

A community conversation about advanced placement classes at Albany High is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7-9 p.m. in the library. The discussion will include AHS parents and faculty and El Cerrito H.S. AP teacher Joan Cone, who will talk about her experience with opening access to AP. The event is sponsored by the AHS Parent Ed Committee.

Job Shadow Day volunteers are providing mentors for most of the student requests; however, mentors are still needed for HipHop music production, and comic-book writing, artistry or production. The contact is Peggy Schmidt, at 510-237-7166.

Once again, everyone rose to the occasion and sent in many delicious treats for the teachers and staff to enjoy as an on-going appreciation of their hard work. The teachers and staff were especially appreciative to have such a wonderful feast at the end of finals week. The following regulars and new-comers contributed to January teacher treats: Kelly Campbell-Hinshaw, Vicki Chin, Piera Cirillo, Bob Menzimer, Guilla Hill, Lori Suzuki, Theresa Bertero, Renee Cohen, Nancy Sutherland, Sou Hyun Kim, Ann Politeo, Lorraine Lerman, Hyun-hee Lee, Jan Wholey, Glenda Reid, Sandy Bender, Jeff Robinson, Valerie Fuller, Ina Ippolito, Corneila Lee, Hai-Yen Sung, family of Mild Bonyard, Virginia McKone, Barbara Cooper & Cheryl Black (as well as any last-minute contributors not mentioned).

The call is out for more volunteers for the Winter Ball, Saturday, Jan. 29 (the



JOANNA JHANDASTAFF

First pinewood

AREN YEGHISSIAN-KANNEIAN, 8, looks over the cars at Albany Cub Scout's Pack 3's Pinewood Derby on Sunday. It was his first time entering the Pinewood, a Scouting tradition featuring cars made by the Cubs.

Considering the pros and cons of typecasting

Quote of the week:
"We humans are our own favorite subjects. We're endlessly fascinated by ourselves. That universal curiosity renders many of us incapable of passing by a quiz that promises to tell us something — anything — about ourselves ..."

— from "What's Your Style?" by Chris Lee, in "Training," 1991



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

The point of this class is to help future librarians work well with others: co-workers, library patrons, committee members — all the people they will be interacting with. One of the articles I read discussed the use of personality tools — or, instruments, as they are called — and questioned their usefulness. I can understand that concern. If everyone in an organization takes something like the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and then uses the results to make assumptions about others or to excuse some of their own behaviors, it wouldn't be good for anyone. However, if the 93 questions on the MBTI can help me understand more about not only how I react, but also how others react to me, then maybe it's a good idea.

I have to admit, though, it is hard to get past the self-consciousness that comes with understanding myself better. I start to wonder, too, how I can fit some sort of personality typing and still be me. And there is, of course, my natural resistance to any kind of generalizations about anyone — the potential, I guess, for people to be treated as types, rather than distinct personalities.

I remember being at a meeting many years ago where the topic of astrological signs came up. Some of us were comparing our signs and having one of those conversations where you know there is no scientific support for the idea, but it's fun to talk about it anyway. Suddenly one of the other people in the room said "I can't believe any of you believe that stuff!" and the person next to me immediately retorted: "That's so like your sign to be skeptical!"

But, having said that, I learned a lot from the class. Most useful are the in-depth descriptions of the different ways people think. One of the exercises was to take our own MBTI types and write some-

thing about our strengths as they relate to our work. Then — more difficult — we were to look at the types that are on the opposite end of the scale and describe something we value in them. This was particularly good for me, since I can always use reminders that just because a person isn't like me, their way of looking at the world is equally valid.

The most enlightening moment of the course, however, was during a group exercise. We were given a problem and asked to solve it as individuals and then as a group. Much to my surprise — and disbelief — all of us scored higher as teams than as individuals. And, according to the teacher, this was the usual result of the exercise. I still can't believe it, since I have always thought that one good individual beats a committee any day. But then, I guess that's why we go to school — to learn something new.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@acib-library.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

dance is 8 p.m.-12 midnight). Help is needed with decorating (beginning at the gym at 11 a.m.), coat check (two shifts, 7:30-9 and 11-12:30), food table maintenance and clean-up (7:30-10:30 and 10:30-12:30), and general clean-up starting at midnight. Volunteers should contact Karen Carlson-Olson at hao_kco@earthlink.net or 510-524-7004.

Albany Middle School

Reserving the yearbook early saves money. The cost is \$25 during January but the price goes up to \$30 in February. Advisory teachers are accepting order envelopes.

A proposed after-school volleyball program is being developed, to help AMS students learn how to control the ball, rally, and serve, and to promote volleyball as a fun way to develop gross motor skills and learn the cooperation needed in a team sport. The program would take place in April, May, and June. Anyone interested should contact Andy Austin at tutoringconversations@earthlink.net.

At the next PTA meeting, parents of 5th graders are invited to come and learn about AMS. There will be a time for questions and a chance to meet the

counselor, principal, and some of the 6th grade staff. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. in the library.

Feb. 3: PTA meeting, 7 p.m., library
Feb. 7: Principal's Coffee, 8 a.m.
Feb. 21-25: Winter Break, no school

Cornell Elementary School

The next Albany Middle School PTA Meeting (7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 3 in the AMS library) will provide information about AMS for 5th grade parents. Fifth graders will visit the middle school a little later in the year.

The next Cornell School PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7-8:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. The agenda includes the principal's report, the Book Fair, and the Silly Olympics. Free childcare is provided and information is available from Eden at 510-527-7333 or eobrenner@baymca.org.

Marin Elementary School

The Parent Education Committee is in full swing. In response to an earlier survey, workshops are being planned on "Media Addiction and the Effects of too Much Screen Time" and "Children's Body Image."

Fourth- and fifth-grade before-school choir with Kathe Jordan begins on Jan. 31. Choir rehearsals will be held

on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8 to 8:30.

To receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by email, contact Kym Sterner at kymsterner@earthlink.net

Ocean View Elementary School

The next PTA meeting is March 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. An ice-kating party is scheduled at Berkeley Iceland on Feb. 13. Tickets are available in advance and \$3 from each ticket goes to Ocean View.

AUSD

At its Feb. 8 meeting, the School Board will hold a public hearing to review Resolution 2004-05-22, Sufficiency of Instructional Materials, in order to be eligible to receive state instructional materials funds.

A new directory of Albany Youth Programs with information about programs and classes at the Albany YMCA, the City of Albany Recreation and Community Services Department, the University Library and the Albany Library is now available in notebook form at all of the above agencies and at all Albany School offices.

Feb. 1: SchoolCARE Board meeting, 7 p.m., Room 312, Albany High School.
Feb. 8: School Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell School
Feb. 9: District Budget Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Ocean View library
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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Pam Middings, 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail them to pmiddings@cctimes.com or fax them to 510-748-1680. Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

Children

■ **Los Amiguitos de La Pena**, the popular Saturday morning La Pena Children's Program, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents the following events: **Earthpades** with Lissin & Hearty: the funniest and hottest juggling duo in the world on **Jan. 29**. **Gary Lapow** show is on **Feb. 5**. Show teaches children to respect themselves, reach out to others & celebrate the many joys of life. — **Dan Goldensohn** performs his positive and humorous children's music on **Feb. 12**. — **Gerry Tenney** performs on **Feb. 19**. Concert is a mix of original, traditional music for the whole family. — **Asheba** performs his special blend of Afro-Caribbean music on **Feb. 26**. — Shows start at 10:30 a.m.; cost: \$4 adults, \$3 children; unless otherwise noted. Details: call 510-849-2568 or go to www.lapena.org.

■ **Cirque Eloize**, Quebec's troupe of acrobats, aerialists, and athletic dancers perform at 11 a.m. on **Jan. 30** at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. One-hour performance for Bay Area schoolchildren. Tickets: \$3; call in advance 510-642-1082.

■ South Africa's beloved **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** and **Yusuf Mhahlela** perform "Long Walk to Freedom" at 11 a.m. on **Feb. 3** at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Choral-group singing, soul-stirring harmonies and soaring mbube chants in a one-hour performance for Bay Area schoolchildren. Tickets: \$3; call in advance 510-642-1082.

■ Target Corporation presents a **Play Date** at 12 - 5 p.m. on **Feb. 6, May 1** for parents to enjoy a discounted matinee at **Berkeley Repertory's** Rota Theatre, 2015 Addison St., while their kids enjoy five hours of supervised activities at Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Allston Way. Feb. 6 event includes 2 p.m. matinee of "Fêtes de la Nuit." May 1 event includes 2 p.m. matinee of "Peoples Temple." Fee: \$20 per child to YMCA, and a discounted ticket rate to Berkeley Rep of \$25. Less than cost of a babysitter, plus 45 percent off regular ticket price. \$5; call 447-2949 or www.berkeleyrep.org.

■ **Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League** is gearing up for spring season (**March 5-June 4**). All East Bay girls in grades 1-8 welcome; no prior experience needed in grades 1-5. League is a volunteer, parent-run organization and is all about skill building, fun and friendship. Registration packet or details: 510-869-4277 or www.abgsl.org.

■ Kathryn Roszak's popular **Children's Dance Program** at Ashkenaz starts at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays through April 27 at 1317 San Pablo Ave. Creative Movement class ages 3 to 5 is at 3:30-4:15 p.m.; Beginning Ballet for ages 6 to 8 is at 4:30-5:30 p.m. Roszak danced with San Francisco Opera Ballet and specializes in teaching dance, creativity and fun to kids. 510-233-5550.

■ **Lawrence Hall of Science** presents Exploratorium sampler exhibit shows through **May 1**. Many favorite hands-on exhibits. — Admission \$4.50-\$8.50. www.lawrencehallscience.com or call 510-642-5132.

Community

■ **Hopalong Animal Rescue** presents the following pet adoption events: cats available 12 - 3 p.m. on **Jan. 29** at Your

Basic Bird, 2940 College Ave. — dogs available 12 - 3 p.m. on **Jan. 29** at Pet Food Express, 1101 University Ave. Details: call 510-267-1915 or go to www.hopalong.org.

■ **Free Haitian political prisoner Fr. Gérard Jean-Juste**, acclaimed human rights advocate, arrested with no warrant while feeding hungry children in his Port-au-Prince church and freed after an international outcry will speak at 7:30 p.m. on **Jan. 29** at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St. Suggested donation \$5-\$15. A reception will precede event; \$50. Music by the Freedom Song Network. Details: call 510-558-9010.

■ **Design and Build Workshop** is 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on **Jan. 29** at Truitt and White Conference Center, 1817-2nd St. Topics include pre-planning, design options, doing it yourself vs. hiring a professional, permits and zoning, budgeting, scheduling, materials, green building, more. Fee: \$25 pre-register, \$30 at door. Details/registration: call 510-558-8030 or email contact cmdbuild.com with "workshop" in email body.

■ **Sufi Teaching & Sitr**, presented by M.T.O. Shahmahnood, is a complimentary session of relaxing evening with mystical music, poetry, and the Sufi Zikr in a unique peaceful atmosphere. Event is at 7 p.m. on **Jan. 31** at M.T.O. Center, Berkeley, 2855 Telegraph Ave., Suite 101. Space is limited. Details, reservations: call 510-704-1888.

■ **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center**, 1414 Walnut St., presents "Getting Along with Your Adult Children" participatory workshop is at 7:30 p.m. on **Feb. 1**. Fee: \$40/public per session, \$35/BRJCC members. — Details: go to www.brjcc.org. Call 510-848-0237 x110 or email info@brjcc.org.

■ **AARP Tax-Aide** is nation's largest volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service; the free service can answer most of the tax issues faced by middle and low income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. To locate a site near you, call 888-AARPNOW (888-227-7669) from **Feb. 1-April 15** or go to www.aarp.org/taxaide for year-round assistance.

■ **Judah L. Magnes Museum** and Lehrhaus Judaica are offering a docent training class on Thursday evenings starting **Feb. 3** at 2911 Russell St. Open to anyone interested in Jewish culture, history, and art. This course will prepare students to become docents (volunteer educators/tour guides). Registration/details: call Faith Powell at 510-549-6933.

■ **Senior program at Albany Library** — "Kingdom of the West: Yellowstone, Yosemite & Glacier National Parks" video will show at 1:30 p.m. on **Feb. 3** at 1247 Marin Ave. Free; wheelchair accessible, no reservations required. Refreshments provided by the Albany Friends of the Library. Details: call the Albany Library at 510-526-3720 or the Alameda County Library's Senior Services at 510-745-1491 or 510-745-1499.

■ **Exploring Global Worship** through hymns collected on three continents: a workshop for all ages with Michael Hawn, editor of "We Sing the World Round" and leader of children's choirs is at 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on **Feb. 5** at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way. Cost: \$15, \$18 at door. 510-849-1564 or www.stmarksberkeley.org.

■ **El Cerrito Library** presents a program for families celebrating the **Chinese New Year** at 11 a.m. on **Feb. 5** at 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. Program starts with Chinese folk stories and origami, followed by a performance of Chinese Fan Dancing by

The Dragon Singers at 11:30 a.m., then guest speaker Jacques Jiang, author of *The Astrology Handbook*, will give an introduction to Chinese Astrology at 12 p.m. Details: call 510-526-7512 or go to www.cccolli.org.

■ **American Red Cross** will be having a **mobile blood drive** in the following location: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Feb. 10** at UC Berkeley Blood Drive, MLK Student Union, Pauley Ballroom. 800-GIVE-LIFE or www.BloodDonor.com.

■ **Albany Rotary** celebrates "A Century of Service" at 7:30-11 p.m. on **Feb. 12** at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany. Live music, dancing, cocktails, light fare, desserts and silent auction. Admission: \$20; to purchase tickets call 510-524-1356 or email: party@albanyrotary.org.

■ **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts** presents a Valentine's Day Cabaret & Silent Auction at 7 p.m. on **Feb. 12** at Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave. Features members of Shotgun Players performing love songs, many by audience request; champagne & chocolates. Tickets: \$30 advance, \$35 at door; call 925-798-1300.

■ **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**, presents its "Family Film Sunday Series — The Love Bug" at 11 a.m. on **Feb. 13** at 2640 College Ave. Great family movies on a big screen with other kids and families in the audience. Herbie is the lovable car with a mind of his own in this reworked comedy classic. Ticket sales benefit the center. Tickets: \$5 at door. Details: call 510-845-8542 or go to www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society** hosts its first annual Valentine's Pooch Salon at 12 - 5 p.m. on **Feb. 13** at 2700 Ninth St. Dogs invited to get pampered, and their human companions will receive helpful information on their care and health. Participants can sign up to have their dog bathed, combed, massaged and even have those long nails trimmed. The BEBHS Training Manager will also be there for private consultations; and dogs receive a Frosty Paws Treat from Dreyers Ice Cream. Event is fundraiser for homeless cats and dogs in the BEBHS shelter. It will be held from Details: go to www.berkeleyhumane.org.

Film/dance/stage

■ **La Pena Cultural Center**, 3105 Shattuck Ave., hosts the upcoming events: Cuban son meets Latin jazz: **Tiempo Latino** and **La Familia** musicians have jam session/dance at 9 p.m. on **Jan. 29**. \$10. Details: go to www.swirlinc.org. RSVP at bayera@swirlinc.org. — **Rhythm Village** is 8 p.m. on **Feb. 4**. High energy West African music and dance. Everyone plays, so bring a drum or reserve one of theirs; call 415-453-3285. \$14 general, \$12 students. — An evening of Flamenco music and dance premiering new flamenco choreographies by **Virgínia Iglesias** is at 8 p.m. on **Feb. 5**. \$18 advance, \$20 at door. Details: call Fernando Torres at 510-849-2568 or go to www.lapena.org.

■ **Ragged Wing Ensemble** presents Jean Claude Van Itallie's "The Serpent" Fri., Sat. at 8 p.m. **Jan. 28 - Feb. 19** at Eighth Street Studios, 2525 Eighth St. Tickets: \$20 sliding scale; call 510-527-9119. Wheelchair accessible. Details: go to www.raggedwing.org.

■ **Aurora Theatre Company** presents

Conor McPherson's "Dublin Carol" **Jan. 28 - March 6** at 2081 Addison St. Shows are Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. Tickets: \$28-\$45; call 510-843-4822 or go to www.auroratheatre.org.

■ **Cirque Eloize**, Quebec's troupe of acrobats, aerialists, and dancers perform at 2 p.m., 8 p.m. on **Jan. 29**, and at 3 p.m. on **Jan. 30** at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$26-\$48; 510-642-9988 or www.cirqueberkeley.edu.

■ **Berkeley Opera** presents Puccini's "Il Trittico" **Jan. 29-Feb. 6** at Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave. Three one-act operas: Il Tabarro, Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi. Tickets: \$10-\$40, call 925-798-1300. 510-841-1903 or www.berkeleyopera.org.

■ **Contra Costa Civic Theatre** presents Agatha Christie's classic mystery "The Mousetrap" at 8 p.m. on Fri.-Sat. through **Feb. 19**, and 2 p.m. on **Jan. 30**, **Feb. 13** at 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Admission: \$10-\$15. Details: call 510-524-9132 or go to www.cccct.org.

■ **St. Joseph the Worker Church** presents "First Fridays", free films with a social conscience, on the first Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at 1640 Addison St. Feb. 4: "pass the hat" for Haiti Action Committee and Pierre Lobosier, and an update on Haiti which will include recent videotape footage. 510-482-1062.

■ **Alchemy Works** presents "The Wisdom of Eve" by Mary Orr at 8 p.m. **Feb. 11-20** at The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave. Saturday, Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tale of an ingenue understudy gone bad; every leading lady's nightmare. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Details, reservations: call 510-845-5576.

■ **Live at Ashkenaz** presents: **March 26, May 21**; West African Highlife Band. — **Feb. 19, April 30**, Kotoja: The Afrobeat Experience. Free African dance lesson at 9 p.m., followed by shows at 9:30 p.m. at 1307 San Pablo Ave. Dance, shake, and move your spirits to the beautiful music and rhythms. Cost: \$13 general, \$11 students w/ I.D. 510-525-5054 or www.Ashkenaz.com.

■ **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** presents Sam Shepard's play "Seduced" Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through **Feb. 19** at Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave. Admission: \$10. For reservations, call 510-649-5999 or go to www.aefberkeley.org.

■ **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** presents Sarah Jones in 20 workshop performances of "Bridge & Tunnel" through **Feb. 20** at their Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St. Jones will rigorously rehearse the show before its April Broadway debut. Audience members encouraged to provide feedback to help develop and improve the piece. Tickets: \$20-\$40. Details/tickets: call 510-647-2949, or 888-4-BRTix, or go to www.berkeleyrep.org.

■ **New series of beginner Argentine tango classes** starts at 7:30-9 p.m. on **Feb. 22-25** at Berkeley Tango Studio. Teachers include visiting maestros Caleb and Ting from New York City. Fee: four classes/\$60 or one class/\$20. Early bird, student discounts available. Details, directions: call Stella 510-655-3585 or email smiling@msn.com; go to www.stellatango.com for schedule.

■ **Rhythm & Muse** features Paradise for an Open Mic session at 6:30 p.m. **Feb. 26** at Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St. Free; piano and two mics available. Details: call 510-527-9753.

■ **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** pre-

sents "Page to Stage", a series of conversations with eminent theatre artists at 7 p.m. at 2015 Addison St. Schedule is as follows: **May 2**: playwright & director Leigh Fondakowski. Free. Details: call 510-647-2949 or go to www.berkeleyrep.org.

Health

■ **YWCA Health and Community Education** features drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts, and more at University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; cost: \$8 - \$10. Details: call 510-848-6370.

■ **Voices of Healing**, a group exploring psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing, meets on second Friday of each month, 1 - 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 510-528-1235 for more information.

■ **South Berkeley Senior Center** 2939 Ellis St., offers a free aerobics, stretching, strengthening fitness class for adults 55+. The class is taught by Naomi Puro. For more information, call 510-981-5170.

Learning

■ **Vista Community College**, 2020 Milvia St., presents the following workshops: **Writing Effective Tour Brochures** workshop is at 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on **Jan. 29**. — **Careers in International Trade** workshop is **Feb. 5**. Focus is on job opportunities in the global marketplace. — **Inbound Travel Industry** workshop is **Feb. 5**; gives overview of factors affecting U.S.'s domestic travel industry. — **Destination Studies: France** workshop is **Feb. 12**; gives overview of the country. — For class schedule and details, go to www.peralia.cc.ca.us or call 510-981-2852.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center** offers ongoing classes in exercise, ceramics, copper enameling, weaving, creative writing, and monthly speakers on matters of current interest and travel slide presentations. New members and seniors over 50 welcome. Lunch offered at minimal charge. Senior group meets at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings; with upcoming highlights as follows: 11 a.m. Feb. 1 Jon Weil sings, birthdays celebrated. — 10:30 a.m. Feb. 8 blood pressure screening, 11 a.m. Medicare rights discussion. — 11 a.m. Feb. 15 optometry discussion, manicures. — 11 a.m. Feb. 22 Charles Fitch shows travel slides. — 10 a.m. March 1 Gerry Arkol leads neighborhood bird walk; wheelchair accessible. — St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Details: call 510-845-6830.

■ **"Sex and the City of God"** lectures are at 7 - 9 p.m. on **Feb. 2, 7** at Alameda House, UC Berkeley campus. Consider the interplay of religion and sexuality in two, free evening lectures: In "Sex and Spirit: Eroticism in Christian Traditions" lecture on **Feb. 2**, Jay Johnson, PhD, highlights the spirituality of erotic desire and sexual expression. In "Homosexuality in the Bible" lecture on **Feb. 7**, Mary Ann Tolbert, PhD, explores ancient understandings of sexuality and gender with aim of helping to inform today's contentious debates over religion

and same-sex eroticism. Details: call 510-643-7435.

■ **"Beyond Labels-Treating at Their Roots"** two hour lecture/seminar is 6:30-8:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St. Come and hear HANDLE, a holistic, non-drug for treating learning challenges, ADHD, autism, traumatic brain injuries and other neurodevelopmental conditions. Details: call 510-528-9010.

■ **Vocal Jazz Workshops** for adults with leader Richard L. Saturdays from **Feb. 5 - April 2** at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 12-2 p.m. is Beginner's repertoire and style classes. \$25. Intermediate-developing workshop, singing and improvisation. Workshop singers to solo jazz repertoire, develops expressive singing and mediate classes open to all interests as well. Details, registration: call 510-524-9283 or go to www.albanyca.org.

■ **Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., offers free, ongoing chess instruction, Tuesdays, from 6 - 8 p.m. The range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play. Program is led by David Pines, the Senior Master title and a top chess players and teachers from California. All levels are welcome. Sets are provided. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ **Contra Costa Civic Theatre**, Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, offers classes and seminars for children and adults throughout the year. All classes and seminars are free. Details: 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ **Assets Senior Employment** job training program for income people 55 and older living in Emeryville, Berkeley and Alameda when you learn. Interested in children? You can receive credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 510-845-8542 or www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**, 2640 College Ave., offers language program classes, workshops, lectures taught by professional artists, aimed at bringing education into everyday lives. 845-8542 or www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **The Reading Edge** is available public use at the Berkeley Library, 2090 Kittredge St. The library has printed text and ready-to-use audio with a synthesized voice, available for anyone with a device, who requires its use to access material. Users must complete a training session before using the

See CALENDAR, Page 10

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Call for a Brochure 510.549.0605

endar

1 PAGE A6

ter that, reservations are
Call 510-644-6648 to set up a
session.

ley Adult School offers ceram-
es from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on
s at St. John's Senior Center,
Alameda Ave. Classes are free, ma-
nd firing charges are not. Lunch
d at a minimal charge. For more
ion, call Diana Bohn at 510-525-

ley Adult School offers Adult
ducation classes, High School
Requirement classes, General
nental Development Preparation
which can be used to earn a
tificate, and Preparation for US
ip classes. Free. BAS also of-
an affordable fee, a variety of
al classes and introductory and
d computer classes. Details:
-6130.

ley Community Media, Chan-
fers affordable classes in video
on and editing to Berkeley resi-
ent orientations designed to in-
BCM to the public are held
ys, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2239 Mar-
King, Jr. Way. Details: 510-
3 and ask for Patrick, John or

terary events

A presents the 2005 Festival of
Authors at 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.
29 at H's Lordships Restaurant,
Wall Drive, Berkeley Marina.
tial breakfast. Advance tickets
g lunch). \$70, tickets at door
d (lunch) \$80. Call YWCA at
6370 for reservations and infor-
mation. Details: go to
ca-berkeley.org.

Express weekly open mike is
days at 7 p.m. at Priya Indian
2072 San Pablo Ave. After 5
nment reading for a 20 percent
cost. Event hosted by Mark
chedule is as follows: Jan. 31:
Ian Hoffman plus Victor Infante
eschens. Details: email berke-
yexpress@yahoo.com.

ley Public Library offers an
e program for poetry lovers at
on Feb. 5 in 3rd floor Commu-
nity Room at Central Library,
redge St. Local poet Sandra M.
ill read from her new volume of
"Belongings". Come hear this
d poet read while you enjoy a
ffee, tea, or consommé. All are
attend. Details: call 510-981-
Y 510-548-1240 or go to
kelpubliclibrary.org.

Reading Writers: Celebrating
rough Live Readings is at 7:30
Feb. 7 at Berkeley City Club,
rant Ave. "Love, Place and
dories" by Emma Donoghue,
ndrix, and Mark Helprin will be
popular local actors. Free, open
bik. Bring a book and take a
ew book exchange.

hole Note Poetry Series is at
alternating Tuesdays at the
2925 College Ave. — Feb. 8:
from Santa Cruz (Christopher
d the poet J.C.). — Feb. 22:
urphy and Ana Romero. —
Mark States and Tom Ode-
March 22: Irish night with Judy
Dale Jensen. — April 12:
and Reginald Lockett. —
Anniversary-Allen Cohen Bir-
nn Cohen and TBA. — De-
Jesse 510-549-9093.

nia Writers Club (Berkeley
resents Madeline DiMaggio,
lyst, consultant, film and TV
producer, speaking on "Sell-
story to Hollywood" at 10 a.m.-
eb. 19 at Barnes & Noble
rs, Event Loft, Jack London
8 Broadway, Oakland. Free
y; no reservations required.
o to www.berkeleywriter-

Anonymous, the El Cerrito
ok Club moderated by
mpshire, presents upcoming
or meetings held at 7 - 8
10 Stockton Ave. "Oryx and
Margaret Atwood on Feb. 22;
"Emperor was Divine" by
ka on March 22; "In the Time
arties" by Julia Alvarez on
"Middesex" by Jeffrey Eu-
n May 24; "The Curious Inci-
Dog in the Night-time" by
don on June 28; and "The
ler's Wife" by Audrey Niff-

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enagger on July 26. Free. Details: call
510-526-7512 or go to www.cccilb.org.

■ **UC Berkeley's International House**,
2299 Piedmont Ave., presents "A Vision
of Hope" narrative essay contest to ad-
dress prejudice and stereotyping experi-
enced by people and groups through-
out the world in the wake of the Sept.
11 attacks upon the United States.
Deadline to submit entries is March 27;
all entrants receive a free six month I-
House membership. Winners an-
nounced in early May. Ten essays win-
ners receive \$1,000 cash prizes.
510-642-9460.

■ **Berkeley Public Library** presents
"Serving the People - Body and Soul:
The Black Panther Party Photographs"
exhibit in first floor lobby through March
19 at 2090 Kittredge St. Details: call
510-981-6100 or go to www.berkeley-
publiclibrary.org.

■ **Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave.,
presents the following ongoing poetry
events: First Thursdays include Open
Mike and Featured Poet sessions at 7 -
9 p.m. — Second Wednesdays from 7 -
9 p.m. are drop-in Poetry Writing Work-
shops, for all ages, led by Alison See-
vak. Free. Library is wheelchair accessi-
ble and light refreshments will be
served. Details: call Julie Winkelstein at
510-526-3720 x20.

Meetings/lectures

■ **Berkeley Garden Club** meeting is 1
p.m. Feb. 15 at Epworth Methodist
Church, 1953 Hopkins St. Aesthetic
Pruning of Trees and Shrubs", is fea-
tured talk by Bill Castillon, instructor at
Merritt College Horticulture Dept. De-
tails: call 510-524-4374.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meets every
Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at North-
brae Community Church, 941 The
Alameda. Share your slides and prints
and learn what other photographers are
doing. Monthly field trips. Details: call
Don at 510-525-3565 or go to
www.berkeleycameracub.org.

■ **Simplicity Forum** is a monthly meet-
ing that features people telling their sto-
ries about the ways they have changed
their lives by finding ways to work less,
consume less, rush less, have more
time to build community with friends
and family, and live more lightly upon
the planet. Details: call 510-526-6596, or
go to www.simpliforum.net.

■ **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**,
Chapter 1294 meetings are at 7:15 -
8:30 p.m. Thursdays at First Presby-
terian Church, 3415 Barrett Ave., Rich-
mond. Details: call 510-235-0490 or
510-233-0318.

■ **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** Al-
bany Chapter meetings are at 9:30 a.m.
on Mondays at 980 Stannage Ave. at
Marin. Details: call Mary at 510-526-
3711.

■ **Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-Kung** classes
take place at Berkeley Unitarian
Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday
evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings
at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Un-
iversalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all
ages and physical conditions are wel-
come to practice. Donation: \$65. De-
tails: call 510-268-4995.

■ **Learn computer applications** for the
"working" world using Windows 95 and
98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software,
Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Pub-
lisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday,
2:15 - 6:15 p.m. at Contra Costa County
Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo
Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. Details:
call 510-237-0840 or go to
www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

■ **Storytelling for Adults**, a group of
storytellers, and listeners, who love to
listen to stories, to keep the oral tradi-
tion alive, meet from 6 - 8 p.m. on the
first Thursday each month at the Berke-
ley Public Library, Claremont Branch,
1940 Benvenue. Free. Details: call 510-
644-6880 or 510-525-1533.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fri-
days at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Com-
munity Church, 941 The Alameda be-
tween Solano and Marin avenues, in
Room 2 — the child-care room — par-
ents may bring their children. This orga-
nization is for individuals who eat com-
pulsively. Details: call 510-525-5231.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous**, a 12-step
program providing free aid for those
with eating problems, meets in Berkeley
every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcom-
ers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church,
2727 College Ave. and in Richmond
every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hos-
pital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to third
floor). Details: call 510-273-9292.

■ **El Cerrito Toastmasters** offers basic
public speaking and leadership activi-

ties and programs. Speakers of all skill
levels are invited to come, observe and
participate. Meetings occur every sec-
ond and fourth Thursday of each month
at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Commu-
nity Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. Details:
contact Jim at jim@peachpit.com.

Miscellany

■ **Center for Independent Living** an-
nounces its newly created **Asian Out-
reach Program** to assist Asian individ-
uals with disabilities, particularly new
immigrants. Providing services and ad-
vocacy in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and
English, program staff are culturally sen-
sitive and knowledgeable of community
and government service available to in-
dividuals with disabilities. For more in-
formation, call CIL at 510-763-9999.

■ **The Albatross Pub** presents the
Brainstorm Trivia Pub Quiz at 8:30
p.m. every Sunday at 1822 San Pablo
Ave. Sign up at 8:15, bring your own
team of 5 or less people or come alone
and join another team. Six rounds in-
clude general knowledge, plus themed,
music, and picture rounds. Albatross
drink tokens are prizes for first and sec-
ond place teams, plus an additional prize
for the winner of an individual
bonus round. Check out www.brain-
storm.com for more information. —
Pictionary, Scattergories, Trivial Pursuit
and many more games are available to
play with a group. Plus, Boggle, Balder-
dash, Chess and Connect Four or bring
your own favorite game from home. —
Tuesday Night Dart Tournament is at
7:30 p.m. for weekly participants or
drop-in competitors. Play Blind Draw,
Doubles, Round Robin, 501 one week,
Cricket the next in their six-lane Dart
Bar. House matches half the pot, cash
prizes for first and second place. \$5 en-
try fee. Details: call 510-843-2473 (THE
BIRD) or go to www.albatrosspub.com.

■ **Three wishes Inc.** makes available
to senior citizens and the permanently
disabled power (electric) wheelchairs at
no cost to recipient, if they qualify;
those who cannot walk and cannot self-
propel a manual wheelchair in their
home, and meet program guidelines.
No deposit required. Details: call 800-
839-5716 or 800-817-1871.

■ **Disabled American Veterans** Chapter
25 meets on the third Tuesday of the
month. The evening begins with a no
host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at
2068 Center St. A short business meet-
ing follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St.,
the Veterans Memorial Building. Price:
\$3. Women who have had relatives in
the US Military are invited to attend and
join the auxiliary. Details: R. DeRitt,
Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

■ **Kensington Senior Activity Center**
meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 2
p.m. in the Arlington Community
Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Center's com-
munity program of life-long learning is
presented by West Contra Costa Adult
School. Attend any class or event you
choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome.
Details: 510-526-9146 or 510-547-1969.

■ **Higher Alignment**; 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Mondays; fun, informative seminars cre-
ating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais
Center, 830 Bancroft Way; 415-461-
5337; \$20.

Music

■ **Starry Plough Club**, 3101 Shattuck
Ave., presents upcoming shows: Jan.
28 Jeffrey Luck Lucas, Sean Hayes,
Sonya Hunter. \$8. — Jan. 29 Carney
Ball Johnson. \$6. — Feb. 11 Tempest,
Druid Sister's Tea Party. \$12. — Feb. 17
Benefit for East Bay Conservation Corps
Charter School: Jessie Brewster & His
Band, Gentry Bronson & the Night
Watchmen. \$5. Details: call 510-841-
2082 or go to
www.starryploughpub.com. Shows at
9:30 p.m., for ages 21+ unless noted.

■ **Jazzschool**, 2087 Addison St., pre-
sents the following events: Sunday
Night Jazzschool Jam Sessions every
Sunday, 7:30-10 p.m. An open-mic fea-
turing David Michel Ruddy Quartet
where instrumentalists and vocalists are

welcome to sit in. Free. — Harvie S &
Mini Fox 8 p.m. Jan. 28. \$18/\$15/\$12.
— Fred Randolph Quintet 8 p.m. Jan.
29. \$15/\$12. Modern improvisational
music: bebop, Brazilian, gospel, and
world music. — Mark Hummel & The
Blues Survivors 4:30 p.m. Jan. 30.
\$18/\$15/\$12 — The Art of the Trio So-
ries with David K. Mathews Trio 8 p.m.
Feb. 4. \$18/\$15/\$12. — Steven Bern-
stein, direct from NYC 8 p.m. Feb. 12.
American popular music explored, tradi-
tional arrangements with improvisations.
\$18/\$15/\$12. — Steven Bernstein 8
p.m. Feb. 12. — Wayne Wallace's 4th
Dimension 4:30 p.m. Feb. 13. Latin and
jazz trombone history explored.
\$18/\$15/\$12. — Clarinetist/composer
Ben Goldberg 8 p.m. Feb. 19. Swinging
and innovative sextet compositions.
\$15. — Mings Amungus 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 20. \$18. — Advance tickets: call
866-384-3060.

■ **East Bay Youth Ensemble's** Winds
Across the Bay presents their winter
concert at 7 p.m. on Jan. 29 at First
Baptist Church of Richmond, 770
Sonoma St., Richmond. Ensemble is a
non-profit music group for students
aged 14 - 18 from Pinole, Richmond, El
Cerrito, Berkeley and Oakland. Featured
is music from "The Odyssey" by Robert
W. Smith and a tribute to jazz with mu-
sic by Ira Gershwin. Tickets: \$10 at
door. Details: call 510-243-0514 or go to
www.windsacrossbay.org.

■ **Concert for Tsunami Relief** with
Terry Riley and friends is 7 p.m. on Jan.
29 at St. Alban's Parish Hall, 1501
Washington Ave., Albany. An evening of
North Indian classical music and more.
Suggested donation: \$35-\$50. No ad-
vance tickets; please bring a cushion if
you prefer floor seating. Details: call
510-527-8602.

■ **Berkeley's oldest pub**, the **Albatross**,
located at 1822 San Pablo Ave., pre-
sents the following musical happen-
ings: — **Kurt Ribak Jazz Group** is at
9:30 p.m. on Jan. 29. \$3. — **Whiskey
Brothers** play old time & bluegrass at 9
p.m. on Feb. 2. Free. — **PickPocket
Ensemble** (European Folk & Café-style)
is at 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 12. \$3. — De-
tails: call 510-843-2473 (THE-BIRD) or
go to www.albatrosspub.com.

■ **Piedmont Choirs** perform their tradi-
tional Winter Concert at 3 p.m. Jan. 30
at First Congregational Church of
Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way. \$12 gen-
eral, \$10 children & seniors. 510-547-
4441 or go to www.piedmontchoirs.org.

■ **MusicSources** presents Renaissance
ensemble **Caramella** at 5 p.m. on Jan.
30 at 1000 The Alameda. Admission:
\$18 general, \$15 members/seniors/stu-
dents. Works of Ciconia, de Lantins,
Grenon and more, on historic instru-
ments: shawms, sackbut and recorders.
Reservations: call 510-528-1685.

■ **Ten-man** a capella group, South
African superstars **Ludymith Black
Mambazo** and **Yusi Mahlasela** perform
"Long Walk to Freedom" at 8 p.m. on
Feb. 3 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall.
Tickets: \$24-\$46; call 510-642-9988 or
go to www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

■ **Healing Muses** presents "Bringing
Light to the Darkness", a celebration of
winter and the coming of spring through
Medieval, Renaissance and Celtic song
and dance, at 8 p.m. on Feb. 5 and at 4
p.m. on Feb. 6 at St. Alban's Episcopal
Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany.
Tickets: \$15-\$18; advance reservations
recommended. 510-524-5661 '3 or go
to www.healingmuses.org.

■ **Berkeley High School Concert Or-
chestra and Concert Band** perform
chamber music at Berkeley Public Li-
brary's North Branch at 2 p.m. on Feb.
5 at 1170 The Alameda. Featured are
works of Telemann, Haydn and
Prokofiev. Free. Details: call 510-981-
6250 or go to www.berkeleypublicli-
brary.org.

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■ **Musical recital** of art songs by G.Q.
Wang is 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 5 at North-
brae Community Church, 941 The
Alameda. Selections include songs by
Beethoven, Bellini, Vaughn Williams,
and some Chinese pieces. Mr. Wang
will be accompanied by Alex Katsman.
Details: call 510-526-3805.

■ **Chamber Music Sundae** presents
San Francisco Symphony musicians
and friends in concert at 3:15 p.m. on
Feb. 6 at St. John's Presbyterian
Church, 2727 College Ave. Program in-
cludes Brahms, Shostakovich and
Schubert. Tickets: \$19 at door, \$15 stu-
dents/seniors, \$7 youth under age 18.
Details: call 415-584-5946 or go to
www.chambermusicsundae.org.

■ **Unitarian Universalist Church of
Berkeley** presents a 75th Birthday Con-
cert of music by composer-in-residence,
Herb Bielaue, at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 at
1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Program
includes Jerry Kuderna performing a
premiere of "Concerto for Piano", John
Karl Hirten and Sandra Soderlund per-
forming a premiere of "Feedback for
Two Organs", French horn solo, Chan-
cel Choir performance, and more. For
church directions, go to www.uucb.org.
Wheelchair accessible, ample free park-
ing. Admission: suggested donation is
\$10-\$15. Details: call 510-524-2912.

■ **Nor-Cal Theatre Organ Society** pre-
sents Dave Wickham in concert at
2:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 at Berkeley Com-
munity Theatre, 1930 Allston Way. Tick-
ets: \$12 at door, \$11 advance;
seniors/students/members/ groups of
eight or more \$10. Children 12 and un-
der free with paid adult. Upcoming
shows: Jonas Nordwall on March 6,
Lew Williams on May 1. 510-632-9177.

■ **Berkeley Chamber Performances** pre-
sents **Cypress String Quartet** in a
chamber music concert with guest clar-
inetist Scott Anderson at 8 p.m. on Feb.
8 at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant
Ave. Program includes works of
Brahms, Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Suk.
Admission: \$20. 510-525-5211 or go to
www.berkeleychamberperform.org.

■ **Cal Performances** presents "Direc-
tions in Music" with Herbie Hancock,
Michael Brecker and Roy Hargrove at 8
p.m. on Feb. 8 at UC Berkeley's Zeller-
bach Hall. Tickets: \$30-\$62. 510-642-
9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

■ **Sacred & Profane**, a primarily a cap-
pella chamber chorus, presents "Song
of Solomon: Choral Settings from Me-
dieval to Modern" concert at 8 p.m. on
Feb. 12 at St. Ambrose Church, 1145
Gilman St. Admission: \$15 general, \$12
senior/student when purchased in ad-
vance from www.sacredprofane.org or
by calling 510-524-3611, or \$18 general,
\$15 senior/student at door. Group rates
available.

■ **Kensington Symphony Orchestra**
Concert is 8 p.m. on Feb. 28 at North-
minster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ash-
bury Ave., El Cerrito. Geoffrey Gallegos
is conductor. Florence Kline and Nancy
Hunt, flutes; Dana Kemp, trumpet. Fea-
tured are works of Cimarosa, Haydn,
Beethoven. Suggested donation: \$10;
seniors, \$8; children free. Details: call
510-524-4335.

■ **MusicSources** presents chamber
music recital featuring Cantatas and
Sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti at 5 p.m.
on Feb. 13 at 1000 The Alameda. Tick-
ets: \$18 general, \$15 members, seniors,
students. Details, reservations: call 510-
528-1685.

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Cities make commission appointments

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

The El Cerrito and Albany city councils are completing the appointments or reappointments of volunteers to their respective city commissions.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, the El Cerrito council reappointed seven residents to four city commissions. They are Rosemary Loubal and Mike Sommers, parks and recreation commission; Doug Mansell, planning commission; Bruce Anderson, economic development board; Ray Daystar, arts and culture commission; and Joann Steck-Bayat, human relations commission.

The council also appointed Geoffrey Nelson to the planning commission.

In both cities, commissions are comprised of volunteers acting in an advisory role to the council. The planning commission in El Cerrito and the planning and zoning commission in Albany also make land-use decisions.

El Cerrito commissioners are appointed with a majority vote of the council. In Albany, commissioners are appointed by in-

dividual council members, with some exceptions.

Council approval is needed for two "at-large" appointments to the waterfront and charter review committees, as well as for each of the five planning and zoning positions, with nominations submitted by individual council members.

Commissioners in both cities serve four-year terms.

Albany Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi and Councilman Farid Javandel reappointed Thelma Rubin and Jerri Holan to the charter review committee; Peter Goodman and Caryl O'Keefe, library board; Ann Maris, arts committee; Geoff Piller and Alan Riffer, park and recreation commission; Jack Rosano and David Vasaik, civil service board; Ray Anderson and Lubov Mazur, traffic and safety commission; Jerri Holan, waterfront committee; and Michele Mangin-Woods, arts committee.

Albany Councilman Robert Lieber appointed Sally Martin to the charter review committee; Gabrielle Hammack, arts committee; Richard Treat, traffic and safety commission; Bill Dann,

waterfront committee; Brian Parker, park and recreation commission; Leah Flanagan, library board and Nan Wishner, arts committee. Javandel appointed Preston Jordan to the waterfront committee.

The Albany council ratified the appointments or reappointments of Leo Panian, David Arkin and Phillip Moss to the planning and zoning commission. The submissions were made by Lieber, Javandel and Okawachi, respectively.

On Monday, Jan. 24, the council interviewed seven applicants for the waterfront committee's two at-large positions. The council is scheduled to appoint those positions at its Feb. 7 meeting, said city clerk Jackie Bucholz.

Three applications for two at-large positions for the charter review committee have been submitted but the interviews have not been scheduled, Bucholz said.

El Cerrito will complete its commission appointments on Feb. 7. There are six applicants vying for three open seats on the arts and culture commission, said city clerk Carol Jean Wilson.

Cinema

FROM PAGE A1

project will incorporate "rear-window captioning" — text describing the movie for the hearing impaired, Holan said.

Visually impaired moviegoers will get headphones with audible descriptions of the film.

City Councilwoman Janet Abelson said she participated in focus groups to make sure the theater was accessible to all residents.

One change that has been made was the substitution of an elevator for the originally planned lift — a smaller, noisier version of an elevator.

"I'm glad they spent the time to do those things and that they don't have problems later and have inferior facilities," Abelson said.

The redevelopment agency bought the theater, with much of its original art deco artwork still intact, for \$520,000 in 2002 and signed a lease agreement with Catherine and Kyle Fischer, the owners of the Parkway Theater in Oakland, last May.

The agreement gave the Fis-

chers a \$2.47 million loan for renovations, to be paid back at \$10,000 a month over 25 years.

In January 2004, the city granted an additional \$1.049 million for the project, earning criticism as well as accolades from residents.

Parkway Speakeasy Theaters will operate the theater much as it does the successful Parkway Theater — serving beer, wine and food along with the show.

Meanwhile, the Friends of Cerrito Theater fund-raising group have held events and raised additional money and donations for the project.

Dave Weinstein, a steering committee member for the Friends, said he had expected opening night to be held this month.

"Obviously this has taken longer than anyone thought it would," Weinstein said. "They were originally talking about it opening now, early 2005."

The project also encountered delays because of efforts to retain the building's historic elements while making sure it met city and state building codes, Trevino said.

Four of the building's 12 doors

will not be reinstated building codes, Holan said.

The city lacks preservation ordinance, instead said he believed been conscious of historic preservation.

"I just believe (theater) should be as accurate as possible," he said.

Building officials said the city considers historic and architectural effort to retain as much original building elements. That includes the building's wall scones, liers, decorative gables.

In some cases, the city has waived the local building code with exceptions to current standards.

"You try to get the can, the best of both," said. "Certainly we serve the historic historic values of the but we also want to ple from injury or damage."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com

Task force

FROM PAGE A1

use and recommended several more to the board.

They included establishing a district-wide priority initiative to develop comprehensive drug and alcohol prevention education and services; passing a resolution in support of the task force; and coordinating a drug-and-alcohol summit.

Woodland said there would be three events in February to open up dialogue about drinking and drug use. The next meeting of the task force, which has about 40 members, will be held Feb. 7.

No formal action was taken, though board members thanked the group for its work.

Board vice president Charlie

Blanchard said the group was taking a good approach to drug and alcohol use — treating it as a health and safety issue, instead of criminalizing students.

"It's been a real fine effort in developing a vision that everyone shares," he said.

The board also has approved spending \$5,000 to search for a consultant to create a plan re-vamping school menus with an eye to eliminating food laden with sugar, salt and fat. The action followed a report by the district's food service committee at its Tuesday night meeting.

School board member Miriam Walden lobbied the board to get behind goals recommended by the food services advisory committee, which has been meeting for about a year.

According to a committee re-

port, the goals should include reducing the reliance of the menu on "fast food" items and increasing the "traditional home-cooking favorites," reducing the use of highly processed meats and other manufactured foods and refined grains and increase the use of fresh or frozen vegetables and fruits, whole grains and unprocessed foods; and provide vegetarian alternatives to all students everyday.

The committee reported that small changes have already been made and expected that to continue.

"Our goal, however, is to create a 'big' change that will dramatically increase nutrition, participation and community satisfaction," the report says, "but only when we fully understand the potential costs of these

changes."

Linda McPheron, a member of the committee and a college professor who teaches about nutrition, told the board that better nutrition helps students learn in class. Albany had models it could follow for improving its menu, as many schools and districts are making changes, including Berkeley's and San Francisco's, she said.

Walden said she's received a lot of community support for the effort and passed around a packet of about nine e-mails from residents indicating their support.

She wanted to do a survey about what people eat at home and how much they were willing to spend for food at school.

The food committee also wanted to extend a new menu plan to school events such as

football games and PTA meetings.

"I think it's a big change, yes," said McPheron, "but I think it's really important education-wise."

There were questions about the details of the plan.

"Would you see this as meaning we could never serve a cookie?" asked Blanchard.

Walden responded that an oatmeal raisin cookie would be acceptable item, or a potato chip with little to no fat.

"So we could have Kettle Chips and not Pringles," board president Michael Barnes said.

Walden said she believed the community had higher standards for its school menus than the district did.

"I think it will meet a demand, especially at the younger grades, rather than pushing the enve-

lope," she said.

The other board members appeared in favor of the and voted 4-0 to take steps to move it forward, member David Farn sent.

Following the meeting, district Superintendent Wong said he added to the food service also mentally responsible.

Board member Napa mache said nutrition was part of the district's goal for excellence.

However, she pointed out that it could be expensive to implement.

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com

Service

FROM PAGE A1

"The employees they encountered this time were really knowledgeable, anxious to serve and gave them the information they needed," she said.

The employees include former recycling maintenance worker Carol Wallace, who was reassigned permanently to the city's

finance department last November after suffering a knee injury on the job.

She now handles accounts receivables and business licenses, which Dodge said are issued to between 1,500 and 1,700 businesses a year.

"I think we're really ready to be there with the public and treat them the way they would want to be treated, basically," said Wallace. "I try to do that, anyway."

Assistant to the city manager Karen Pinkos said the city was also judged on how promptly it responded to an e-mail, which she handles.

"(Customer service is) something we've been trying to focus on, and to be recognized for it is pretty rewarding," she said.

In August, the finance department was reconfigured so there is always an employee at the counter.

"There was nobody facing the room," said Dodge, who has been with the city since August. "Everyone's back was turned to the counter and that made it difficult because of the design of the room if you were really focused on your work to even see someone there."

She added: "I think everybody realized that there was a need to have somebody assigned the function of dealing with people

at counter and making sure the phone was answered 8 to 5."

Best said judges also take into consideration the attractiveness or appeal of the city's facilities.

The El Cerrito City Hall is located in trailers more than a decade old at San Pablo and Manila avenues. There's an effort to build a new City Hall, where the planning and finance departments can be located within a "one-stop" location.

"If a city is considering this kind of friendly process they develop a reputation for encourages business and growth," said Best. "It's only one element but a important thing."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com

Chamber

FROM PAGE A1

versity of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School.

She started PagePoint with her husband that same year. They now have three employees. Her offices are in her garage, where desks and other office furniture mingle with personal possessions, including an electric guitar hanging on the wall and a children's car seat on the floor.

The couple, who married in 1995, have two young daughters. Gobler will be president of the Albany Rotary in the 2005-06 year.

"For the good and the bad, both Aaron and I are pretty civi-

cally minded," said Cain, who also teaches marketing at UC Berkeley and Mills College.

That extends to the chamber, where Cain and others have already begun making changes and are working on new projects.

Along with chamber board member Tracy Giles, Cain spearheaded a new way of collecting membership dues. Members were offered the option of paying a lower rate if they paid their dues by Jan. 7.

The resulting monetary influx gave the chamber its rosier financial picture in 30 years, said past president Bill Kerber.

Giles and others said the chamber has also improved its relationship with the city and is working on other projects that

benefit chamber members.

That includes an ad-driven, business-oriented El Cerrito magazine, conceived of by Richmond graphic designer and five-year El Cerrito chamber member Rodney Hiram. The magazine, Hiram said, is expected to be published in February.

There's also talk of a "Taste of El Cerrito" to be held in May, Cain said.

Cain designed the chamber's Web site when she joined more than three years ago and said she

hopes to integrate even more marketing concepts into the chamber's activities that will increase membership.

"We have a lot of long-standing El Cerrito business leaders," said Cain. "And I think we're now looking at perhaps the newer companies being able to participate in leadership positions."

Sevall Ginternick, the director of the Chamber of Commerce, said he is heartened by the influx of new blood.

"The chamber has been going

for years on the strength and dedication of a set number of people for a long time," Ginternick said. "Now newer people are coming in with the same sort of dedication and more energy. It can do nothing but improve the chamber. I look for an era of much stronger improvement, where the chamber becomes more vital and more valuable to individual members."

"I think the big thing now is to get into the computer age," added Kerber, who pointed out

the San Pablo Avenue office lacked a computer machine.

"They're hoping to get that (computer) done and do things all right as they don't move to lose too many seasoned members," he said.

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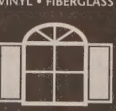
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Consultant vs. agency

In this situation, an agent represented neither buyer nor seller. They met each other and had negoti-

my articles, "Understanding Agency" and "Consultant or Agent?" on my Web site, www.east-bay-realtor.com.

The house, price, contract

After the buyer signed the formal consulting agreement I had provided, we went to see the home. With an address in one of Oakland's most popular neighborhoods, location was not a concern. The buyer explained the issues regarding the condition of this "fixer"



DON DUNNING

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

original charm remained, there were two significant problems: poor condition due to extensive deferred maintenance, and a tasteless,

as a consultant, I dealt only with the buyer and had no interactions with third parties. This is one of the key differences between working with clients as a consultant, rather than as an agent. This distinction is not fully recognized by the public or real estate licensees.

and ratified a purchase agreement on their own. At that stage, involvement as an agent was appropriate. The buyer had questions: what was my opinion of the house, the price he was paying for the contract?

This is a classic example of how consulting on an hourly basis made sense for both the buyer and me. The distinction between an agent and a consultant is spelled out in

and that he intended to quickly renovate and resell. This gave me a context in which to evaluate the purchase. The fact that this was the first home he had ever bought and that, although he was not a licensed contractor, he planned to do most of the work himself, made me uneasy.

After visiting this 1912 Traditional-style home for just a few minutes, I could plainly see it was a major fixer. Although some of the

1970s, contemporary addition. I explained to the buyer that the first issue was curable, at a very large expense. Unfortunately, the out-of-character addition was incurable.

Other value deflators became apparent as I looked around: numerous aluminum windows and sliding doors, incongruous in a

See DUNNING Page B2

Real Estate Spotlight:

Charming Piedmont traditional



THIS CHARMING FOUR-PLUS BEDROOM, THREE-AND-ONE-HALF BATH TRADITIONAL, built in 1937, at 539 Blair Ave. in Piedmont is close to schools and transportation. The spacious, light-filled living room has a random plank oak floor, a handsome fireplace and two built-in bookcases. Paneled double doors lead from the foyer to the formal dining room. The updated kitchen has a new double oven and dishwasher, a gas cook top, a tile floor and is adjacent to a cheerful breakfast room with built-in china cabinets. The solarium off the living room and kitchen has a lovely view of the San Francisco Bay Bridge. A pretty staircase leads from the foyer to the upper level where there are three plus bedrooms and two bathrooms. The master bedroom suite with separate sitting room has a San Francisco Bay view, and has access to the front balcony. The two additional bedrooms share a bathroom. The recreation room downstairs opens to the back patio, garden and loggia for outdoor entertaining. Additional features include: main level bedroom and bath; hardwood floors — many recently refinished; new paint in many rooms; decorator colors; security system; earthquake retrofitting; good storage space; plus room for hobbies; roof replaced in 2001.

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Dunning

FROM PAGE B1

charming, older home; an unattractive and poorly positioned exterior wooden stairway and deck; an unappealing front yard that needed a total redo; and a small lot with minimal outdoor living.

In addition, there was a small, contemporary master suite with a dysfunctional, badly planned bath that defied a cost effective fix. From floor to ceiling, everywhere I looked needed repair, updating or both. Within the first few hours of our meeting, and after seeing the home, I counseled the buyer to walk away from this purchase; he had offered too much. In fact, this buyer and property were simply not a good match at any price.

The contract was not professionally prepared; clauses were not clear, and neither buyer nor seller was fully protected by this document. This was something else to deal with, but only if the sale went through.

As I shared my thoughts with the buyer he listened carefully, but insisted this was a project he wanted to do. The excitement of being a player in the real estate game overwhelmed his common sense and caution.

Inspections tell the story

Other than a termite report, without a dollar cost, the seller provided no other disclosures.

Even though this buyer had some generalist contracting experience, he did not have enough to accurately assess the overall damage nor anticipate the worst case scenario. I proposed he get a comprehensive inspection by a reputable home inspector.

Further, I suggested he have experts inspect, evaluate and give bids on various systems: foundation and drainage, pest control, roof, electric, heating and plumbing. Noting the long-term roof leak, I speculated about the possibility of water damage inside walls and, possibly, mold. This buyer took my advice and ordered the reports.

Once completed, the inspections painted a scary picture: 80 percent of the foundation needed replacement; the termite report was huge; there were three different types of toxic mold on each level of the house; and drainage, heating, electric and plumbing deficiencies were found. The building needed to be stripped to its studs and rebuilt with a new foundation. I felt the repairs would exceed \$250,000.

Once again, I urged this buyer to forget this property. Undaunted, he decided to bargain with the seller.

Negotiating with the seller

This buyer had a number of disadvantages in getting the seller to agree to a much lower price. The house had been a rental and the seller did not have a burning

As I shared my thoughts with the buyer he listened carefully, but insisted this was a project he wanted to do. The excitement of being a player in the real estate game overwhelmed his common sense and caution.

need to sell now. The home had not been listed and actively marketed, so the seller had an incentive to go through that process before agreeing to, what to him would be, a low price. And, other contractors had expressed interest in the home.

After reviewing all his findings with the seller, the buyer was given a one-week extension on his inspection contingency. He asked for more than a 50 percent reduction of his original offer. To me, even if the seller acquiesced, that was still too much for this particular house, but he was not ready to quit.

In the end, another contractor offered more and the seller agreed. This buyer now realizes that, at the time the seller ratified his offer, he had only a fraction of the information and knowledge he needed to make an informed choice.

Final thoughts

Note that, as a consultant, I dealt only with the buyer and had no interactions with any third parties. This is one of the key differences between working with clients as a consultant, rather than as an agent. This distinction is not widely recognized by the public or real estate licensees. Be aware that many agents, even those with newly printed licenses, have the word "consulting" or "consultant" on their business card. This does not signify that they know anything about consulting or the business.

If consulting seems like a good fit for you, look for an experienced, competent Realtor who does consulting on a regular basis. After all, anyone can give advice; you want good advice. Most buyers and sellers need professional assistance in today's complicated and expensive market.

Usually, this means the traditional agency relationship. Sometimes, as in this instance, hiring a real estate representative on an hourly basis is the most logical thing to do.

Don Dunning has been a full-time Realtor since 1979 and is past president of the Oakland Association of Realtors. He can be reached at 510-485-7239 or don@eastbay-realtor.com.

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2004 California housing market: One for the record book

PRNEWswire

LOS ANGELES — While housing market statistics for December will not be available until next month, the California residential real estate market in 2004 will be one for the record books, according to the California Association of Realtors.

Here are some highlights:

■ 2004 will be a record year for home sales, which are projected to increase 3 percent over last year's record sales figure of 601,800 existing detached homes.

■ 2004 will be a record year for home prices. The median price of a single-family home in California crossed the \$400,000 threshold late in 2003, and will finish the year with an annual median in excess of \$450,000, 22 percent higher than the 2003 annual median of \$372,700.

■ The percent increase in the median price of a single-family home increased by double-digits for the third consecutive year in 2004.

■ C.A.R.'s Unsold Inventory Index reached a historic monthly low of 1.5 months in April 2004.

■ Time on the market — the median number of days it takes to sell a single-family home — was the third lowest on record at a projected annual average of 29 days, surpassed only by 2003 at 27 days and 2002's all-time low of 26 days.

■ C.A.R.'s Housing Affordability Index (HAI) fell to 19 percent in May, the first time the index has hit the teens since December 1989. Since that time, rapid price appreciation and marginally lower interest rates have generally offset each other, keeping the HAI in the 18- to 19-percent range throughout the summer and fall of this year. If not for unexpectedly low interest rates throughout much of the year, price appreciation might have driven the HAI to historically low levels that were last seen in May/June 1989 (14 percent).

■ The affordability gap between California and the U.S. reached an all-time annual high of 36 percent in 2004. Nationally, affordability was at 56 percent in 2004, four points below its record high.

■ New home building eclipsed the 200,000 mark in 2004 for the first time in more than a decade, with an expected total of 206,000 permits for the year. The last time the state exceeded 200,000 permits was in 1989, when 238,000 permits were issued. Yet this year's permit total fell short of household growth, which is estimated at between 220,000 and 250,000 households in 2004.

■ First-time home buyers as a share of the total market fell to an all-time low of 26 percent in 2004, based on C.A.R.'s annual Housing Market Survey.

■ The Boomer Generation exerted a tremendous influence on the California housing market in 2004, accounting for three out of four transactions.

■ Internet use by home buyers and sellers continued to climb in 2004. Based on C.A.R.'s Internet Versus Traditional Buyers Survey, 56 percent of all buyers used the Internet in a substantive way as a part of their homebuying process,

surpassing the 50 percent the first time.

■ Forty-seven percent of sellers indicated that the Internet in the homebuying process, a dramatic 12 percent in 2003, was C.A.R.'s Survey of California Sellers.

■ Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac increased the single-family mortgage loan volume to \$333,700 this year to 2005, which could be more than 12,960 families. However, the increase in the limit is still far too low for most home buyers in the median price of a California home is 28 percent higher than the new loan limits.

The California Association of Realtors (www.car.org) is the largest state trade organization in the United States, with 155,000 members dedicated to advancement of professional real estate. C.A.R. is headquartered in Los Angeles.

Three major forces are changing the mix of home buyers

BY JOHN HANDLEY

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Three powerful demographic forces will shape housing in the future, determining who will buy homes, where they'll buy them and what they will be like.

One demographic expert calls two of the trends the "Browning of America" and the "Graying of America." The third force will be the coming of age of the children of Baby Boomers born between 1977 and 1994 — or Generation Y.

"Most housing growth will be driven in the future by immigrants and Hispanics," predicted James Johnson, professor at the Kenan-Flagler Business School of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. This will result in non-white residents rising to almost half of the U.S. population by 2050, Johnson said at a seminar in New York sponsored by the Urban Land Institute, a nonprofit real estate research and education organization.

The graying of America will occur as the 78 million Baby Boomers age out of the labor

market, propelling a boom in retirement housing.

Just beginning is the rise of Generation Y. Also called Echo Boomers, this generation of 73 million is turning 21 at a rate of 4 million a year. Gen Y will make up 34 percent of the U.S. population in 2015, Johnson said.

First, though, home construction will get a boost from immigration. Johnson noted that 10 million immigrants will reach their peak home-buying years in the next decade.

The impact has been felt in the Chicago area. "Immigrants are the major source of population growth in Chicago. Some 45,000 immigrants arrive here each year," said Christopher Shaxted, executive vice president of Lakewood Homes in Hoffman Estates.

"Immigrants have been driving the housing boom here. As high as 40 percent of first-time buyers are immigrants," Shaxted added. "There's been an uptick in ethnic buyers — a doubling since a year ago," said Mark Malouf, chief operating officer of Montalbano Homes in Oak Brook, Ill.

But buying can be a stretch for some immigrants. "It may take a whole family to buy a house," said Robert Meyn, vice president sales and marketing for the Chicago division of Ryland Homes.

"Ethnic buyers are looking for an extended-family component, maybe a first-floor master for aging parents, with the children upstairs," said John Carroll, president of Kirk Corp. in Streamwood, Ill.

Johnson notes that as the U.S. population becomes more diverse, so will housing. "The accordion house is one possibility, especially for Hispanics," he said. "It is an expandable house that can be added onto instead of moving."

Also, there is interest in creating a Mexican-style house with more rooms that are smaller in square footage.

"There are real opportunities for builders who understand what's important to ethnic families," Johnson said.

"Developers must learn to customize houses to satisfy ethnic and cultural needs. This housing should be near churches and recreation, including soccer fields."

Real estate development hot spots will be in the South and the West, he said.

"The South is emerging as a

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A Weekly Publication of Hills Newspapers

General Manager.....Shared

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Alameda 510-748-1688

Advertising Sales.....Joyce Thomas

Open Homes Guide FAX.....510-748-1688

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Working with crafts brings fond childhood memories

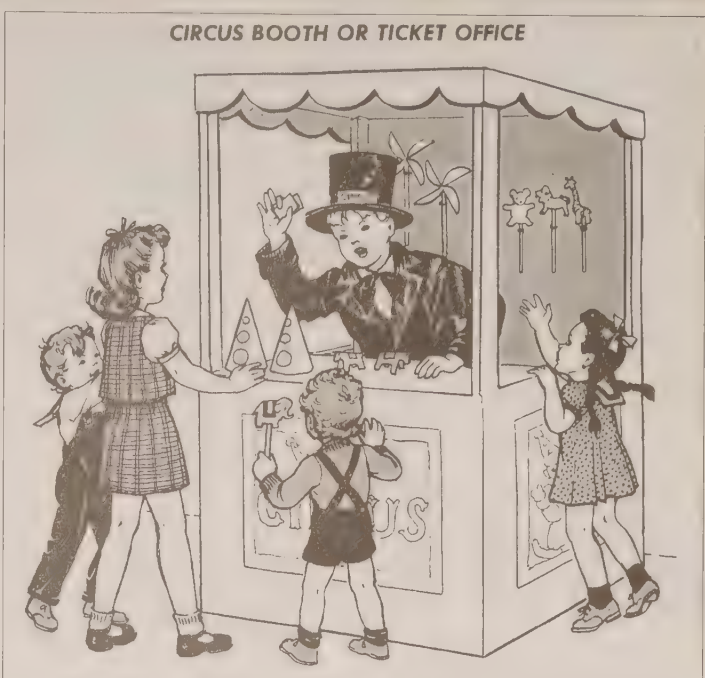
Number 480 in a series of true experiences in real estate
When I was a child, we — just everyone I knew — did lots of crafts. We were interested, had time, and were provided opportunities to make things at home and at school. We made gifts for our moms, dads, Valentines, decorations, and toys. I remember giving mom a bottle to sprinkle on before ironing. We had red paint on the inside applied a dime store decal to outside before adding the sticker at the top. I think every- one in my class was asked to make a cork bottle for the project. The rest of the materials were provided by the teacher. The teacher also provided tiny little calendars to paste onto cards for parents, helped everyone make a class mold plaster-of-Paris for Mother's Day, and we had us how to make flower pages out of pieces of felt. Every classroom in those days had a Christmas tree, which was decorated with handmade stars, paper chains, and pointy cornucopias. And we made place mats from paper strips, springy card-paper clowns, and — a favorite activity of mine, done again and again — shoebox dioramas. We had at our grade school a recreation director who provided us with all the materials for our games and crafts. One year we had lessons in carving figures from balsawood. That was very interesting. About the time I started kindergarten, my parents bought for my sister and me, a set of 12 volumes entitled Book House for

Children. Included with the purchase was a bonus, a folder with illustrations and instructions for making all sorts of crafts. On the front of the folder are the words Creative Work for Your Child's Hands, copyright 1944. I still have this folder, which I recently remembered and looked at for the first time in many years. Oh, the memories that came back to me. As with a favorite childhood book, every illustration was still in my mind, exactly. It was as if I was still age 6, or 9, or 12, and was entreating my mother, again, to help me make favorite projects. One I found irresistible was a life-size circus ticket office. I never got to make it because it was much too elaborate. A wooden frame was involved (lumber, saw, nails, glue), plus a scalloped cardboard canopy, and paper sides squarely and tautly attached. That was a problem: Many of the Book House craft projects were just too hard, impossible, even. The circus booth illustration shows a child of about 8 years — the ticket taker — in a fancy black tuxedo-like suit and black top hat. Where did he get such clothes? On one wall of the booth behind the boy are prizes, animal toys on sticks. Did the boy make them? How could he? The booth is beautifully painted with clowns and impossible fancy lettering. I couldn't do these things. I knew that. I looked at all of the projects in the folder many times. There was the eight-note xylophone made of strips of poplar "purchased from

any lumber yard." I knew making a xylophone wasn't in the cards. Maybe I could make the Indian maiden doll from one of my mother's old gloves, but I'd never manage her pretty face that the directions suggested, could be painted or sewn. When I saw the "Dancing Colleens" again, I was so excited, my heart almost stopped. I certainly remembered this one. Dancing Colleens is part of the holiday craft section, something to make for St. Patrick's Day. The idea was that a string of paper dolls could be made to dance on steam from boiling water. There was a sketch showing a pot of water on a stove with a lid on which dolls were dancing. I remember longingly studying that picture as a child, reading how it was supposed to work. The instructions said to cut a string of paper dolls, then glue the ends together to form a circle. Easy enough. Next a circle of cardboard large enough to cover a pan of water was needed. It was to be punctured in a lot of places with a nail. Now, "with a parent's help" (the instructions cautioned), the cardboard was placed on top of a pan of lively, steaming water. When the dolls were put on the lid, "the steam puffing through the



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THIS LIFE-SIZED TICKET OFFICE seemed too elaborate even for Pat who had a real childhood penchant for crafts.

holes will make your dolls really dance." That was the promise. I think I might actually have talked my mother into doing this one, but as I have no picture in my head of seeing it happen in our kitchen, I guess not. I would certainly remember. So, now that it's been 50 years since I first read about the Dancing Colleens, I had to try it. I folded a strip of paper back and forth eight times. Then I drew a doll on one side — head, body, arms and legs.

The arms of each doll link to the next doll at the fold so I was careful as I cut through all the layers at once not to cut that part of the folds. Now I had a continuous string of dolls that I joined into a circle with a small piece of tape. I then cut a circle of cardboard large enough to cover the top of a saucepan, filled the pan with water, and set it on the stove to boil. Poking holes in the cardboard proved tedious so I abandoned that idea and instead put onto the

now boiling pot a spatter screen, the kind used when frying bacon. It was time! I carefully placed my circle of dolls onto the screen and stood back to watch. It worked, they did dance! Not jitterbug exactly, but the dolls did move in a gentle up-and-down sort of motion. I found it quite satisfying.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoftalbert.com.

A look at conforming loan limits, current common indices for 2005

The New Year has brought some good news to those interested in lowest fixed and adjustable rate mortgages available. In December 2004, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the pseudo-government agencies that guarantee conforming mortgage loans, announced the maximum loan limits for single-family homes and multi-family units: duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes. Unlike the Scrooge-like increase of 2003 to 2004 of only 3.2 percent, this year's limit increase is significant. For example, last year's maximum loan for a single family home was \$333,700. Transactions above that up to \$359,600. Similarly, the maximum loan for duplexes is \$460,400, triplexes \$650,000 and fourplexes \$691,600. Important as the maximum conforming loan amounts are the common indices that control interest rates for conforming and jumbo adjustable rate mortgages. Adjustable rate mortgages have five things in

common: An index, a margin, a start rate, and adjustment cap and a life cap. The index will change periodically. It usually will change monthly, but it can change daily or at the whim of Alan Greenspan and his FOMAC Committee. The prime rate is tied to the Federal Funds Rate, which is the rate that banks charge each other in overnight transactions. This short-term rate is the one everybody reacts to when Greenspan talks about increasing or decreasing interest rates. Last year, Fed Funds got as low as 1 percent and the lending institutions generally added 3 percent making the prime rate 4 percent, the lowest the prime rate had been in 40 years. The prime rate currently (January 2005) stands at 5.25 percent. This index primarily affects home equity lines of credit (HELOCs) and auto loans. Currently, other indices affecting ARM's would be the one-month LIBOR (the London Interbank

Offered Rate) The one-month LIBOR is 2.544 percent, up from last month's 2.48 percent. The six month LIBOR is 2.910, up from last month's 2.89. The one year LIBOR (a 12-month weighted average) is 3.205 percent, down from last month's 3.221 percent. T he one-year T-Bill (treasury bill) is 2.85 percent, up from last month's 2.82 percent. These are not enormous changes, but the general trend seems to have the rates ticking upwards. Some banks and major savings and loans such as Washington Mutual, World Savings and First Federal of California use the old standby indices for their Option ARM's, the loans offering the four payment options: ■ The minimum payment (first year as low as 1 percent); ■ Interest only payment; ■ Thirty-year fully amortized payment



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Madness

■ Fifteen-year the fully amortized payment. The COFI (based on the 11th District Cost of Funds) is currently at 2.025 percent, up from last month's 1.96 percent; the CODI (Cost of Deposits Index) is 1.563 percent up from 1.451 percent and the COSI (Cost of Savings Index) is 2.020 up from 2 percent. The most important thing to consider when watching adjustable rate mortgages is how the index has performed over the last 10 years as compared to the last 12 months. Ask your mortgage lender to provide a history of the indices when making this crucial decision. Karen Senzig can be reached at 510-339-8511, Fax 510-339-3814, E-Mail at ksenzig@aol.com.

Home buyers seminar this weekend

COLDWELL BANKER

Net more from the sale of your home is just one of the topics to be covered in the upcoming Home Buyers Seminar sponsored by real estate professionals, Jerilyn Babington. Learn about how to properly stage your home, be pre-qualified, pre-sale home inspections, as well as positioning your property in today's market. Gary C. Wong C.P.A. will provide expert advice on the sale of principal residence or vacation property along with the 2005 real estate tax laws.

Jerilyn Babington is a licensed associate broker with Coldwell Banker in Orinda and has consistently retained the status of the President's Elite division, which represents the top 1 percent of Coldwell Banker agents nationally. Seminars are tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Havens School in the Ellen Driscoll Auditorium on Highland Avenue in Piedmont. Seating is limited. Reserve your spot at 510-547-0744, 510-547-4601 or 925-253-4601.

The Open Home Guide is on B18.

Schwartz, Della Maggiora named Berkeley directors

COLDWELL BANKER

The Berkeley Association of Realtors has tapped Marcia Schwartz and Gene Della Maggiora to serve its 2005-2006 board of directors. Members serving on the association's board provide leadership and vision on a regular basis to set the agenda and establish the direction of the 103-year-old organization. Schwartz began her real estate career in 1987 as a sales associate with North Berkeley office of Mason-Dixon REI. In 1992, she completed extensive leadership training program and began managing Mason-Dixon's Castro Valley office. An active association member, Schwartz has served on the board of directors and as vice president of the West Contra

Costa Association of Realtors. She is a former elementary school teacher and Hastings School of Law student. A resident of Berkeley for more than 20 years, she has two grown children and a grandson, all residing in Los Angeles. Della Maggiora has more than 14 years of sales, marketing and real estate experience. He began his real estate career in 2002 working for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Berkeley and has been with the company ever since. During his time with Coldwell Banker, Della Maggiora has been honored as a member of the company's International Diamond Society for his success in real estate sales. In addition, he has earned the designation of Cendant Mobil-

ity Marketing Specialist. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker, Della Maggiora worked for 12 years in magazine and newspaper publishing. He was most recently the publisher of CADENCE magazine, the world's largest computer-aided design magazine. He is an active member of many organizations, including the Berkeley Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors, Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, Habitat for Humanity and National Audubon Society. A Bay Area native, Della Maggiora has lived in Berkeley for the past seven years. Reach Schwartz and Della Maggiora at Coldwell Banker's Berkeley office at 510-488-1495.

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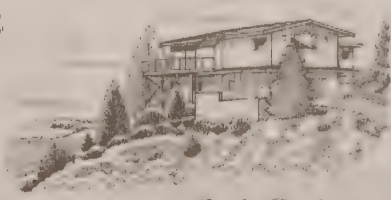


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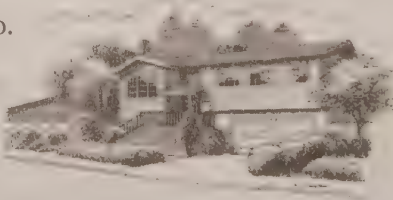
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Forces

FROM PAGE B2

"I came to this country 12 years ago, and now I'm a U.S. citizen," said Jose Martinez.

He is employed as a machine operator in Hanover Park, while his wife works as a packaging operator in Schaumburg.

"You dream of a house. It's much better to own than rent," said Miriam Martinez.

The Martinez family is typical of Hispanic immigrants who are changing the face of America.

"The U.S. will be the second largest Hispanic nation in the world after Mexico by 2040," J. Walker Smith, president of Yankelovich Partners Inc., told the meeting of the Urban Land Institute.

The changing racial makeup of the United States is reflected in Generation Y.

"Ethnically diverse, Generation Y is 38 percent non-white," said Elizabeth Gillespie, vice president of marketing in Atlanta for Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc., a real estate firm. She spoke at an Urban Land seminar. "Generation Y will change the economic landscape of this country just as their Baby Boomer parents did," Gillespie said.

"Above all, Gen Y is tech-savvy. Their lifestyle is all about technology. They are consumed by entertainment and accomplished at multitasking," Gillespie added.

These techies, already comfort-

able with online shopping, are sure to use the Internet to research their future residential purchases.

"There are already telltale signs that is happening," said Malouf, the Montebano COO. "Today's billboards advertising subdivisions don't tell how to get there, but they do give the Web site."

Pamela Hamilton, senior vice president of Centre City Development Corp., the public agency for downtown San Diego's redevelopment, described what Gen Y wants in housing.

"Location is important; they want to be where the action is, like when they were in college. They want to be near coffee shops, clubs and shopping," she said.

"Primarily, they are singles. Units must be affordable. Single units of 500 to 900 square feet are OK with them."

They like lofts with exposed concrete, high ceilings, open floor plans and bold colors.

"High-speed Internet is essential. Half the buyers will be women, so security is important. Luxury high-rises don't attract this group. That's partly because of price, but also because high-rise condos reinforce privacy, and this group is very social. Also, high-rise design is not what they want," Hamilton said.

Three recent condo buyers in Chicago closely follow these characteristics.

Three friends bought units on the second floor at Van Buren Lofts, the conversion of an industrial build-

ing at 1224 W. Van Buren St. on the Near West Side. They are Lisa Ledonne, 24, a nurse at Rush University Medical Center; Erin Duckhorn, 23, a support specialist for an asset management company; and Natalie West, 24, a real estate sales agent.

All now live in the suburbs with their parents until their lofts are ready for occupancy next summer or fall.

"We're all friends and wanted to be together," said Ledonne, who attended Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights with West.

Ledonne described how her attitudes differ from those of her Boomer parents. "I'd rather e-mail than call on the phone. I don't watch TV, but my parents do. I'm usually on the Internet."

Duckhorn takes the credit for talking the others into buying at Van Buren Lofts. "I wanted new construction, and the West Loop is a good location. And it's near Greek town."

Her decision to buy has backing at home. "Our parents have seen the boom in real estate and how property values have appreciated," Duckhorn said.

She admits to one typical Gen Y trait - multitasking. "I put on makeup and do bills while driving.

My mother would kill me if she knew."

West acknowledges that most in her age group are renting apartments. "But after a couple of years working, I decided to do the smart thing and buy," she said. "My parents were shocked at the prices. They thought \$29,990 just for parking was outrageous."

Most of the one-bedroom-plus units at Van Buren Lofts are priced in the \$200,000s.

"I wanted to be in the city. I'm not ready for the suburbs," she said.

West added that her generation likes all the best things. "We go for the hardwood floors, the stainless steel appliances, the granite countertops. Maybe we've been spoiled. We've been exposed to nice things and want them."

"My parents have been in the same house for 28 years, but my generation is addicted to change. I'll probably stay in the loft a couple of years and then move," West said.

While members of Generation Y are buying their first homes, some Boomers may be buying their last.

"But it's a mistake to think that Boomers will ever retire," said Smith of Yankelovich. "Two-thirds to 80 percent say they will work in retire-

ment. Work is important to them. The meaning of life comes through work. Boomers are redefining what it means to get old."

While the dream of the Boomers' parents was to retire in the Sun Belt, most Boomers will likely age in place. In the Chicago area, an increasing number of retirement developments have sprung up.

"There are enough Boomers to support all of Del Webb's communities in the Chicago area," said Karen Brunhofer, Chicago-area president of the division of Pulte Homes. "These are people who want to stay in town because of family and friends, rather than go to Arizona or Florida."

Sharon and Larry Senzel moved in September to Carillon at Heatherstone, an age-restricted development built by Cambridge Homes in far north suburban Beach Park.

"We're retired Baby Boomers," said Sharon Senzel. "We had been thinking about selling our 2,700-square-foot home in Gurnee, and when we came here, we said, 'This is it.'"

"It's age-restricted," she continued, "but also diverse because we're surrounded by townhouses and single-family homes of Heatherstone that are not age-restricted."

The Senzels have a daughter liv-

ing in Hainesville and

ing with the Marines in the view that Boomers' children: "Generally different," she said, "more adventurous, not as naive."

Despite the popularized retirement development in the Chicago area, only a few Boomers are on the concept.

"Preliminary evidence suggests groups with Boomers that they have a problem with conventional, large-scale communities," said Victor Regnier, professor of architecture at the University of California.

"There's the sense of my father's retirement community, referring to strict developments, enough for me."

"Boomers want something vented for them. They rise and sets over the tion."

Generation Y would disagree.

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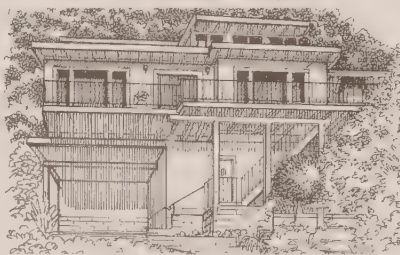
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Home's value based on assumptions, but sold in good faith

BY TOM HAMILTON
CORRESPONDENT

REAL ESTATE Q&A

Q. My brother- and sister-in-law purchased a small home in Prosper, Texas (a Dallas suburb) in 2000 and obtained a mortgage in the usual manner. Now, having just bought a new home, they wish to sell this one to me for my mother-in-law to use.

My in-laws asked a real estate agent for a market appraisal. Utilizing the county's tax records, which show the home to be 1,426 square feet, she arrived at a value of around \$127,000. Since I have an interest in purchasing the home, I contracted with a local appraiser for a formal appraisal. The appraiser measured the home and discovered the county's square footage is in error by some 160 square feet. The house actually measures much smaller, 1,276 square feet. The real estate agent now agrees with the appraiser that the value is around \$115,000.

My in-laws do not have an appraisal (showing the square footage) in their original sales documentation from 2000, although I presume the mortgage company did one in

the course of qualifying the loan. It appears possible that everyone involved (previous owners, listing agent, my in-laws' agent, mortgage company, title company) ALL relied on the county tax records' overstated square footage.

My in-laws apparently overpaid for the home by some 10 percent. Do they have any recourse with any of the above entities/individuals? It seems unfair that they "eat" over \$10,000 in diminished value. They certainly can't sell to someone else and represent the house as having 10 percent more square footage than it actually has, yet why didn't the "professionals" discover this fact and inform them four years ago?

My in-laws are reluctant to engage an attorney as they've been told by a few knowledgeable folks that no one's liable, as all were acting in good faith four years ago. But wouldn't all these companies have errors-and-omissions insurance that should cover my in-laws' loss were they to make a claim for it?

Also, they've been told they cannot recoup the \$800 or so in property taxes they overpaid the last four years due to the county's error - is this correct as well? Finally, what should they do prior to closing - or I do as purchaser - to ensure that the home's tax records are corrected?

A. In most real estate listings, there is a disclosure that states the information provided is assumed to be correct, but it is not guaranteed to be accurate. When your in-laws purchased the home four years ago, the mortgage company probably did require an appraisal be conducted.

If that appraiser measured the house and determined the size to be, within reasonable measurement error, 1,426 square feet, then that appraiser conducted a market appraisal using those facts.

See HAMILTON, Page B9

THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE IS ON B18.

The GRUBB Co.



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3 New Listings



828 LIBERTY ST., EL CERRITO

#15 - Charming custom built home - Spacious living rm w/cathedral ceiling & corner fireplace, formal dining rm, large kitchen w/eating area, separate laundry office or study. Detached double garage w/door opener, level lot w/private yard

\$315,000



WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

#360 - Large updated duplex with room to grow. Five bedrooms and 2 baths in one, and 1 bedroom with 1 bath in the other. Good income and steady tenants

\$579,000



1925 REGELLO CT., SAN PABLO

#17 - Rare opportunity. This gem property has a creekside location with lots of extra features, possible extra bedroom, family room, drive-thru garage and covered patio overlooking the creek.

\$425,000

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Stylish Remodel of Duplex

All new kitchens, baths, appliances, doors and fixtures. Quality detailing with granite, refinished hardwood floors, custom tiling dual pane windows and atrium doors to patio. Huge owner unit has 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Upper unit is 2 bedroom, 1 bath that would be perfect for extended household members. Two car attached garage with interior access.

Just Listed at \$729,000

Bill Miller or Phil Fair
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DIABLO
Price Upon Request
Approx. 5.5 ac. fronting historic Diablo Lake includes personal dock, 1 lighted tennis and sport court. Pool/Spa. 5 BR / 3.5 BA. Master en suite. 2 BR / 1 BA guest wing. Next to Mt. Diablo State Park.
Janet Sweeney & Susanna Schlendorff
(925) 314-1500



ALAMEDA
1729 SAN ANTONIO
Open Sun 2-4:30
Solid Coast Victorian Beauty! Huge 6 BR / 3 BA home with 14ft. ceilings, hardwood floors, multiple fireplaces and many upgrades. Pet City, a legal triplex, currently used as duplex. Awesome top floor 2 BR / 2 BA rented unit. Gorgeous details throughout.
Andrea Gordon
(510) 339-8900



LAKE MERRITT
\$425,000
Remodeled co-op with downtown views in "white glove" building with 24 hour doorman service. Eat-in kitchen with Corian counters and top of the line appliances. Wide blade shutters throughout and some hardwood floor. Near BART and downtown shopping. Shown by appt.
Tom Erwin
(510) 339-8900



BERKELEY
\$599,000
Four unit building in desirable Berkeley neighborhood. Great opportunity for anyone looking for investment property. Low maintenance. Low pest. Close to 4th street shops. A must see!
Sarah Schisler
(510) 339-8900

DANVILLE \$4,125,000
45 Acres above Crow Canyon Country Club. Tentative map for 8 lots. Land requires road easement across another parcel of land not included in price. Beautiful lots looking over valley. Great project to work on in 2005.

Mel Copland (510) 339-8900

SAN RAMON \$990,000
Beautiful 5 BR / 3 BA home in Thornton. 2715 Sq. Ft. Brand new hardwood & flooring. Gourmet kitchen with granite island and brand new appliances. New landscaping in backyard.

Amy Psomas (925) 455-0505

DANVILLE \$659,000
A bright, spacious 3 BR / 2 BA. Approx. 1470 sq. ft. Duet w/ crown molding. Updated kitchen. Hdw floor. Dual pane windows. Private yard. 2 car garage converted to day care. Reconverted easily.

Jerry Moriarty (925) 314-1500

BRENTWOOD \$699,000
Wonderful court location with beautiful views. 4 BR, 3 full baths. Fireplace in living room & master suite. Hardwood floors, granite counters, etc.

Penny Piston (925) 455-0505

TRACY \$612,000
Like new Discovery model at Lourance Ranch. 4 BR / 3 BA. Island kitchen with maple cabinets and tile counters. Huge master suite w/ walk-in closet. Large oval tub. Separate shower & dual sinks. Possibly furnished.

Penny Piston (925) 455-0505

PITTSBURG \$520,000
Big, bold and beautiful. Gorgeous framed 4 yr old contemporary with 2.5BA that's better than new. New community park and very close to BART and Highway 4

Long Nguyen (925) 935-9100

WALNUT CREEK \$520,000
Updated 2 Bedrooms + family room + finished attic. Walk to BART & town. View of trees and grass.

Kay Lanway (925) 935-9100

SAN PABLO \$310,000
Cozy home with tons of potential. 2BR. New water heater. Spacious backyard with plenty of storage space. Close to shopping, schools and transportation for investors and 1st time buyers.

Heidi Hanley (925) 935-9100

DISTINGUISHED HOME OF THE WEEK



Open Sun 1:00-5:00

4427 Harbord Drive

Well located, spacious sunny home with large decks and family room. Walk to Hillcrest school.

Offered At: \$795,000

UPPER ROCKRIDGE



Dione Cota
(510) 339-8900

Open Homes

ALAMEDA \$1,199,000
1729 San Antonio.
3 BR / 2 BA. Open Sunday 2-4:30pm.
Andrea Gordon (510) 339-8900

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$795,000
4427 Harbord Drive
4 BR / 3 BA. Open Sun 1-5:00pm
Dione Cota (510) 339-8900

WALNUT CREEK \$520,000
1714 Parkside Dr.
2 BR / 2.5 BA. Open Sunday 1-4pm.
Kay Lanway (510) 339-8900

Buyers' Corner

OAKLAND HILLS/ UPPER ROCKRIDGE
*\$850,000-1,100,000
Family with small children seek traditional home with level garden and views of the bay.
Kate Castle (510) 339-8900

MONTCLAIR *\$650,000-850,000
Newly weds seek a woody retreat with in-law potential.
Kate Castle (510) 339-8900

MONTCLAIR *Low 600,000's
Professional couple relocation - seek home with space for home office.
Kate Castle (510) 339-8900

*All Buyers Are Pre-approved

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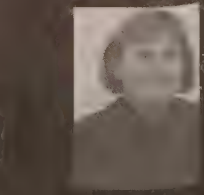
Andrea Gordon
(510) 339-8900 ext 248



Helen Nicholas
(510) 339-8900 ext 238



Nick Lavroy
(510) 339-8900 ext 219



Miriam Wilson
(510) 339-8900 ext 300

DANVILLE
925.314.1500

LAFAYETTE
925.935.9100

EVERETT
925.455.0505

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510.339.8900

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OAKLAND, CA 94611
PHONE: 510-292-2000www.redoakrealty.comALBANY - NEW!
2/1 - Fixer, close to El Cerrito Plaza and BART.
Albany schools. For more information go to
www.redoakrealty.com
404 Cornell Avenue Open 2-4:30EL CERRITO \$429,000
6 UNITS - Located on a quiet street close to
El Cerrito BART, shopping and easy access to
freeway. One 3/2, four 2/1 and one 1/1 units
1421 Liberty Street Open 2-4KENSINGTON - NEW! \$719,000
3/2.5 - Solid mid-century with Bay views from
Oakland to Marin. Downstairs community room
& half bath. More at www.BobBlumberg.com
5 Franciscan Way Open 2-5OAKLAND - NEW! \$579,000
3+1/5 - A wonderful home in Montclair. Private
front patio plus deck overlooking backyard
Completed major seismic retrofit!
6926 Sayre Drive Open 2-4BERKELEY - NEW! \$489,000
2/1 - Good floorplan, breakfast nook, built-
ins, and great level yard for gardening or play.
Nice neighborhood close to downtown Berkeley
2332 California Street Open 1-4:30EL CERRITO \$739,000
3/3 - Mid-century modern. Custom built, over
2,400 sq. ft., tucked up at end of long drive-
way. Bay view. Japanese garden. 2-car garage
1631 Arlington Boulevard Open 2-4OAKLAND - NEW! \$545,000
DUPLEX - One 2/1 unit + one 3/1 unit and
fireplace. Close to transportation, Piedmont Ave
shops, restaurants and theater. Needs TLC
520 Oakland Avenue Open 2-4OAKLAND \$659,000
2/1.5 - Spacious Craftsman in convenient
neighborhood. Hardwood floors, built-ins, new
redwood deck, large yards front & back
4151 Park Boulevard Open 1-4:30BERKELEY - NEW! \$389,000
1/1 - Affordable, charming, sunny, & sophis-
ticated with formal dining room, hardwood
floors, high ceilings and private deck - special
2371 Virginia Street #1 Open 2-4EL CERRITO - NEW! \$599,000
3+2.5 - Big, bright & beautiful! Family room
has wet bar & separate entrance. SF & bridge
views! Great neighborhood!
1244 Lawrence Street Open 2-4OAKLAND - NEW! \$199,000
COMMERCIAL - Light industrial/commercial
condo with roll-up door (Not a live unit) in
43-unit historic live/work complex. 1,207 sq. ft.
730 29th Street #115 Open 2-4OAKLAND - NEW! \$429,000
2/1 - Desirable Maxwell Park location. Large
lot with plenty of expansion potential. Quiet,
private neighborhood, lots of trees and sur-
3321 Morcom Avenue Open 2-4RODEO - NEW! \$449,000
4/2 - Sun-filled, single-level home on large
corner lot. Remodeled kitchen. Beautiful!
1094 Seascape Open 2-4RICHMOND ANNEX \$479,000
2/1 - Large, chic remodel plus home office/
laundry room with period details, great kitchen
5824 Panama Avenue Open 2-4:30[january 30th]

RED OAK REALTY



5824 PANAMA AVENUE, RICHMOND ANNEX

Chic remodel of spacious 2/1 + home office/laundry. All new kitchen with granite
& stainless appliances. Classic design features built-ins, period lighting, custom
colors and hardwood. Gorgeous bath, ample storage, huge yard.LISTED AT \$479,000 OPEN SUNDAY, JANUARY 30th 2-4:30PM

Jeanne Lengsfelder, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2106 EMAIL: jeannelengs@sbcglobal.net

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Berkeley, CA 94707

1244 LAWRENCE STREET, EL CERRITO

Be sure to see this SPACIOUS & SPARKLING mid-century home in an excellent
neighborhood! It features S.F. & bridge views, a family room with separate
entrance + wet bar, 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths! LISTED AT \$599,000OPEN SUNDAYS JANUARY 30th & FEBRUARY 6th 2-4PM

Marsha Quick, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2107 EMAIL: marsha@redoakrealty.com

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Pleasant Valley Office: HILA AZIMZAI

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Just Listed!



5 FRANCISCAN WAY, KENSINGTON

Solid and inviting mid-century with a Bay View from Oakland to Marin. 3
bedrooms, 2 baths upstairs, with a community room, half bath & workshop
down, private brick patio. Photos and more at www.BobBlumberg.com.
LISTED AT \$719,000OPEN SUNDAY, JANUARY 30th 2-4PM

Bob Blumberg, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-527-0344 EMAIL: Bob@RedOakRealty.com

Reid

FROM PAGE B5

on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. Topics cover power tools, concrete work, retrofitting, plumbing, interior design, carpentry and solar electricity, to name only a few. You can call the center for class information and cost. Contact **Sydney** at 510-525-7610 or visit the website at bldgduct.org.

OAK & ORAL LEE

The Oakland Association of Realtors supports the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarships for high school students. Real estate agents designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. This year's chairperson is **Kim Cleghorn** of RE/Max Executive. To find out more about donating call 510-836-3000.

CALLBACK SAFETY

The National Association of Realtors announces the safety product for Realtors, Mobile Callback. Realtors receive pre-arranged calls to monitor their well-being. This system is helpful at open houses and showings. Anyone that spends time with people they don't know, as part of their business can use this product. To order visit mobilecallback.com.

WHAT?

■ New to Placer Title, but not the real estate industry is **Lynell Bevels**. After 20 years as a loan consultant, she brings her own special expertise to the title industry as an Account Representative in Montclair. Say welcome at 510-339-1194.

■ Minding Her Own Business by **Jan Zobel** is the self-employed woman's guide to taxes and financial records. The book contains information small business owner need to know. Local author Zobel runs her own tax preparation business for more than 25 years. Learn more at www.janztax.com/book or order by calling 800-490-4829.

■ **Karen Davis** is known in the Berkeley real estate community as a class instructor for classes sponsored by Placer Title. The classes were so well received that she will be sharing her knowledge throughout Alameda County. Class information is available at 510-407-1327.

WHAT?

I'll announce your news item in this column if you send it to me. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an email to bobbierid@mindspring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191.

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880 Grizzly Peak, Berkeley

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Offered at \$1,495,000

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NEW LISTING

3085 Buena Vista Way, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This warm and welcoming four-plus bedroom, two bath home has it all: soaring ceilings and open spaces; wonderful indoor-outdoor flow; restful, wooded views from almost every room; and filtered Bay views.

Offered at \$750,000



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presented by
Vickie Robinson and Aleso Gourhan

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Vickie Robinson and Aleso Gourhan are Bay Area natives and both are top producers for Prudential California Realty. For professional assistance with all aspects of buying or selling residential real estate, call them at 510-464-1207.



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\$2,195,000



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New custom home on 4+/- acres with five bedrooms, a gourmet kitchen and family combo, elegant master suite, spectacular views and a large yard. Great location. Quiet and private.

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Exceptional location conveniently located Hwy 24, BART, Lafayette Reservoir and downtown. Immaculate 3-year-old Mediterranean nestles perfectly into its hillside setting. Wonderful for large gatherings.

LAFAYETTE

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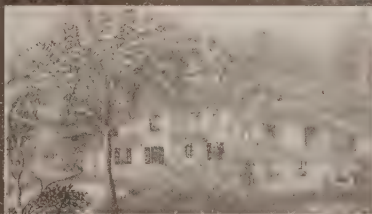


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ORINDA

\$999,000



Premier Orinda Country Club Lot

Rare Orinda Country Club 0.87+/- ac view lot with approved plans to build a Spanish-Contemporary 5bd/3+ba home with spacious FR, eat-in kitchen with island. Possible guest home with garage not yet approved.

WALNUT CREEK



Lafayette Schools

Charming updated 3bd/2ba home featuring granite kitchen, spacious master suite, new bath, new dual pane windows, pool, child safe cover, large private yard, Lafayette Schools.

LAFAYETTE

\$699,950



Great Opportunity to Own

Opportunity for first time buyers or investors. 3+bd/2ba, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, 3-way fireplace. Buyers to review all reports prior to making offer. Some drainage and foundation issues. To be sold "As Is".

WALNUT CREEK

\$679,000



Rare Find in Walnut Creek

Rare single level home on extra large lot featuring a wonderful central atrium. Vaulted ceilings in the living room and huge master suite. Spacious den could be third bedroom. Approximately 1829+/- sf of living space.

ROSSMOORE

\$430,000



Not to be Missed

Fabulous artist's retreat decorated with southwestern flair. This spacious 5th model 2bd/2ba unit is 1364+/-sf. The living room has a wood burning fireplace, sliding doors to private yard.

ORINDA 2 Theatre Square 925.258.1111 | MONTCLAIR 6116 LaSalle Avenue 510.899.8000

Hamilton

DM PAGE B8

The assessor's office may also have measured the house and determined the size to be 1,426 square feet. If someone now measures the house and it is actually 1,276 square feet, as you state, then I'd say that the new measurement is more accurate given the other two measurements being consistent with each other and greater than the current measurement. With respect to the "market value appraisal" by the real estate agent, that is not their business. Agents represent buyers and sell and assist them with exchange property rights. A real estate appraiser is utilized to make a value judgment, so I would rely on such a professional to make a value assessment of the property's actual worth today. Appraisals cost about \$350 on residential properties.

See HAMILTON, Page B10

Hills Newspapers: The first place to look when looking for a new home.

COLDWELL BANKER

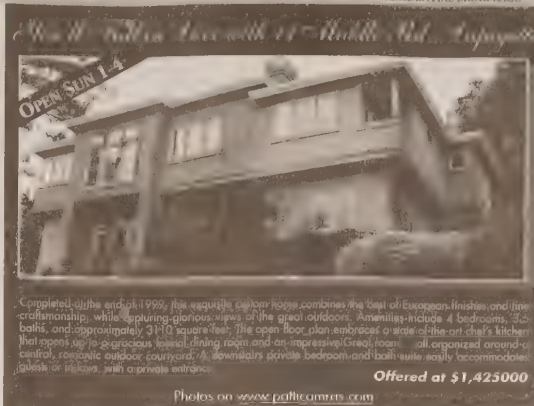
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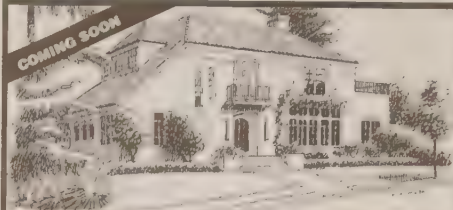
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FAX: 925.253.0416
patti.camras@camoves.com



Completed in 1999, this exquisite custom home combines the best of European finishes and fine craftsmanship, while capturing glorious views of the great outdoors. Amenities include 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and approximately 3,110 square feet. The open floor plan embraces a state-of-the-art chef's kitchen that sports top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances and an impressive granite island. All organized around a central, romantic outdoor courtyard. A downstairs private bedroom and bath suite easily accommodates guests or in-laws with private entrance.

Offered at \$1,425,000

Photos on www.patticamras.com



1 LYNNMOUTH ROAD, PIEDMONT
OFFERED AT \$2,085,000

Circa 1928, this elegant Piedmont traditional is rich in architectural detail, encompasses approximately one quarter acre of land, and features six bedrooms, four plus baths, gracious formal rooms, and a large level yard.

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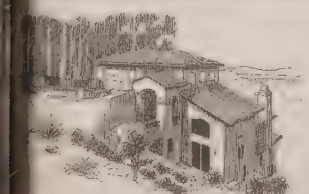
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BY APPOINTMENT

LAND



99 SKYLINE BLVD \$1,749,000

Montclair. New construction. Panoramic S.F. canyon views. 3+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Luxurious master suite with private balcony. Huge kitchen eating area/family room with vaulted ceiling. Media room or au-pair unit with separate entrance.

Tracy Neuberger 510-531-7000 x251



684 SANTA RAY AVENUE \$725,000

Crocker Highlands. Engaging blend of traditional and modern. Formal dining room, country kitchen, family room, three bedrooms, 2 remodeled baths. Stunning office-loft with views. Gardener's paradise, too!

Stan Hammond 510-531-7000 x 246



HILLDALE AVENUE \$1,450,000

Key. Elegant new home with Bay view & amazing cathedral ceilings. Private master suite with fireplace, balcony & luxurious bath. D4BA

L. Lester 510-531-7000 x262



2471 BURLINGTON STREET \$579,000

Lincoln Heights. New listing! Charming, split-level Mediterranean on highly sought after cul-de-sac. Three bedrooms, one and one half baths, refreshed original kitchen, formal dining room, rumpus, breakfast room, big yard & great storage.

Tracy Butler 531-7000 x232

CLASSIC VICTORIAN -COMMERCIAL 4-PLEX \$1,000,000

Oakland. Downtown Oakland on edge of Jack London square. Apprx. 3800 interior sq. ft. Zoned C-40 suitable for office, retail, civic type uses. Tastefully renovated. Deliverable 100% vacant.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



EAST OAKLAND INDUSTRIAL \$950,000

Oakland. Unfinished new construction. Value added opportunity.

Anne Bruff 531-7006 x283

BUNGALOW \$425,000

Oakland. Fruitvale district. Totally refurbished 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, formal dining room, living room with fireplace. Modern kitchen with granite top, disposal, D/W & appliances. Attached garage, freshly painted in & out. Great large rear yard. A must see.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

OAKMORE DISTRICT LOT \$395,000

12,227 sq. ft. retreat off Hwy 13 in Montclair. Gorgeous redwoods surround this special lot. Gentle downslope with utilities at street. Super private.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

CLAREMONT AREA \$299,000

Above Claremont Hotel. Partial Bay view. Upslope with utilities in street. Area of multi-million dollar homes. Financing available too!

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

NEW LISTING - MONTCLAIR DOWNSLOPE \$199,000

Balboa Drive within Shepherd Canyon area. Priced to sell. Financing available. Reports and home site plan included.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

NEW LISTING - MONTCLAIR \$175,000

Westover Drive upslope. Design review approved plans for fabulous home. Financing pkg available. Canyon view.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

MONTCLAIR UPSLOPE LOT W/PLANS \$140,000

Plans previously approved for Mediterranean style home. Plans expired, but could be resubmitted to city for approval. Wouldn't take long to get permit.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

LAKE TAHOE RENTAL/SALES (800) 858-2463 www.tahoerentals.com

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

835 Centennial Av - \$689,000
2314 Clinton Av - \$725,000
347 Creedon - \$1,300,000
1914 Everett St - \$435,000
739 Haight Dr - \$611,000
1115 Holly St - \$490,000
728 Lincoln Av - \$530,000
1713 Nason St - \$555,000
138 Orr Rd - \$675,000
172 Purcell Dr - \$700,000
29 Redondo Ct - \$625,000
469 Santa Clara A - \$615,000
2101 Shoreline 229 - \$415,000
1122 Union St - \$725,000
2993 Via Bahia - \$485,500
2530 Webb Av - \$585,000
1615 Willow St - \$490,000

ALBANY

1500 Albany Tr - \$533,000
921 Evelyn Av - \$400,000
947 Hillside Av - \$590,000
944 Kains Av - \$525,000
535 Pierce 5312 - \$460,000

BERKELEY

1601 10th St - \$430,000
1322 Alcatraz Av - \$485,000
1626 Berkeley Wy - \$640,000
2748 California St - \$470,000
1801 Carleton St - \$915,000
17 El Camino Real - \$1,525,000
1429 Euclid - \$1,450,000
1668 Euclid - \$485,000
69 Florida Av - \$830,000
1144 Grizzly Peak - \$748,000
1515 Hopkins St 5 - \$199,000
2 Panoramic 103 - \$375,000
1 Park Gate - \$1,009,000
2501 Prince St - \$885,000
2815 San Pablo - \$425,000
1667 Short St - \$675,000

EL CERRITO

1265 Arlington - \$1,000,000
5949 Fern St - \$540,000
6407 Hagen Bl - \$615,000
768 Pomona - \$541,000

EL SOBRANTE

1962 Heath Dr - \$777,000

318 Joan Vista St - \$480,000
3933 La Colina - \$345,000

EMERYVILLE

6 Admiral A491 - \$220,000
2 Anchor Dr F377 - \$385,000
6363 Christie 1422 - \$415,000
6363 Christie 2506 - \$731,500
6363 Christie 2526 - \$730,000
4 Commodore D221 - \$431,000
1500 Park Av 105 - \$490,000
1500 Park Av 327 - \$195,000

OAKLAND

1006 101st Av - \$387,000
1801 105th Av - \$430,000
1032 107th Av - \$405,000
1815 108th Av - \$400,000
555 10th 117 - \$391,000
1229 13th Av - \$485,000
1634 15th Av - \$333,000
2417 24th Av - \$320,000
674 28th St - \$412,000
424 2nd St - \$820,000
724 34th St - \$565,000
2722 35th Av - \$440,000
862 36th Av - \$695,000

986 37th St - \$266,000
2225 39th Av - \$372,000
1811 41st Av - \$420,000
1421 45th Av - \$530,000
736 45th Av - \$352,000
953 45th St - \$560,000
2022 46th Av - \$370,000
930 46th St - \$380,000
1201 51st Av - \$350,000
1062 55th St - \$530,000
662 57th St - \$507,000
836 57th St - \$432,000
3125 61st Av - \$385,000
2843 62nd Av - \$285,000
3384 64th Av - \$475,000
2215 65th Av - \$395,000
3500 65th Av - \$410,000
3401 68th Av - \$419,000
962 76th Av - \$303,000
1220 79th Av - \$390,000
2323 82nd Av - \$555,000
1624 88th Av - \$313,000
2215 88th Av - \$385,500
1254 90th Av - \$300,000
8901 A St - \$385,000
6160 Acacia - \$2,700,000
870 Alleen St - \$530,000
1748 Auseon Av - \$259,000

127 Bayo Vista 303 - \$319,500
942 Bayview - \$775,000
389 Belmont 109 - \$391,000
5420 Brann St - \$450,000
6135 Bromley Av - \$230,000
3300 Burdeck - \$950,000
10020 Burr St - \$345,000
200 Caldecott 108 - \$410,000
280 Caldecott 119 - \$368,000
851 Calmar Av - \$980,000
9600 Castlewood - \$459,000
3315 Chestnut St - \$440,000
2035 Church St - \$310,000
362 Clifton St - \$818,000
6104 Contra Costa - \$649,000
7732 Crest Av - \$401,000
5515 East 17th St - \$240,000

1209 East 19th St - \$310,000
1950 East 20th St - \$310,000
2732 East 21st St - \$310,000
710 E. 22nd 106 - \$310,000
2636 East 23rd - \$310,000
2141 East 29th - \$310,000
1126 Elmhurst - \$310,000
6829 Elverton - \$1,110,000
4349 Evans Av - \$910,000
4306 Fair Av - \$910,000
7020 Favor St - \$550,000
7021 Favor St - \$550,000
2963 Florida St - \$550,000
3230 Florida St - \$550,000

See SALES, Page 10

Hamilton

FROM PAGE B9

Regarding the property's assessments and taxes, I believe that Texas is a "market value" state. As such, the assessor (the county Assessment District; e.g., Dallas, Tarrant, etc.) would estimate the market value of the property based on numerous indicators of value, pri-

marily the values from recent sales of similar properties in the immediate market area.

If the assessor's information can be shown to be inaccurate, then they could have overstated the assessed value and that could be considered an error. Errors can be corrected going forward, and many times the error can be retroactively corrected through an abatement process. There is a limited time

frame for abatement, so the sooner you start, the better off you will be.

Lastly, regarding liability, you would probably have to show some kind of negligence on the part of the "professionals" you list in your question before you would be entitled to some sort of compensation. However, I think the best means to move this issue forward is to have an appraisal conducted by a state-certified (registered) appraiser.

That person will be able to establish a value that you can stand by in determining a fair price and should be able to settle the size discrepancy for you.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associate professor at the Shenehon Center for Real Estate Education at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. E-mail questions to: thamilton@stthomas.edu. Please include name, city and state.

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real estate services

North Berkeley Cottage

1228 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday

Jan. 30th, 2005

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Miriam

(510) 845-8311

Warm secluded cottage with in-law unit on a large lot. 3 bedrooms 1 bath up & one bedroom 1 bath down. In the garden with blooming roses and wisteria. Located across from popular Live Oak Park. Walking distance to shops, cafes and restaurants.

Offered at: \$799,000

For more details, go to www.kormanandng.com

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<http://www.spcre.com> 510-222-8870

EL CERRITO



STUNNING CONTEMPORARY IN THE HILLS W/VIEWS

5 BR 3.5 BA. Almost 4000 sq. ft., Excellent condition! Huge room and family rooms with fireplaces, full legal in-law downstairs car attached garage, remodeled kitchen and baths, new ceramic floors, new roof, paint and clear Termite report. Huge Master Suite. Don't miss!

www.carladellazoppa.com

\$1,199,000

#40057136

510-400-1111

ALBANY

LOVELY HOME

W/FLEXIBLE FLOOR PLAN

2 Bedrooms, 1 BA w/non-conforming 1 BR main level; 1 BR downstairs w/separate entrance, some updating in kitchen, 2 tandem garage, level yard, central heating. #40057136

Jerry Garner

510-710-1111

RICHMOND ANNEX

VERSATILE HOME IN THE ANNEX

3 BR, 1 BA almost 1000 sq. ft., additional half room, remodeled kitchen, newer roof, updated plumbing, hardwood floors. #40057136

Marilyn Rodriguez

510-710-1111

POINT RICHMOND

GREAT STARTER

2BR 1BA in downtown Point Richmond. 1 car attached garage w/garage door opener, hardwood under carpets, updated kitchen/bath. Zoned c-1 neighborhood, live-work, commercial uses. #40057136

Steve Kendall

510-400-1111

RICHMOND NORTH AND EAST

FABULOUS LEVEL RANCHER

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649 34th Street, 3 BR 2 BA. Over 1500 sq. ft., family room w/fireplace insert, large eat-kitchen w/large separate laundry, car attached garage w/int. access, great backyard w/attractive patio and charming lawn area w/flowers & fruit trees. Great workshop for building enthusiasts.

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JUST LISTED

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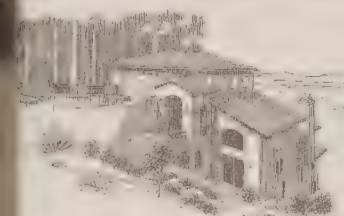
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Realtor® Associate
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adelemwong@yahoo.com
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Three-bedroom, two-bath Sequoyah Heights home with detached studio/office, updated kitchen, pantry/laundry, family room, formal dining room, spacious living room with fireplace, landscaped grounds, tranquil waterfall and pond. \$650,000

SUNDAY OPEN HOUSES: JANUARY 30 & FEBRUARY 6, 2:00-5:00

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REALTORS

New Listing! First Open House Sunday, January 30th, 2-4:30pm



Spectacular views of
San Francisco, Oakland, the
Golden Gate and the Bay are
yours from this wonderful new
home by Dunne Construction.
Over 4000 sq.ft of warmth,
quality and luxury.



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Offered at \$1,749,000

Mary Neuberger
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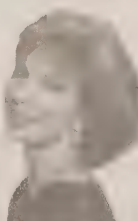
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Live Here And Be Near It All—Built in 1994, Tom Nolan designed this loft/condo. Artful wrought iron gates lead to a lushly landscaped courtyard complete with fountain. Common area parking and laundry. Mediterranean style surroundings.

This freshly painted, 760 sq. ft. studio with sleeping loft and faux Berber carpet has a spacious feel. It could easily be transformed into a cozy one bedroom.

Live in the heart of all the things we love, including Fourth Street's fine shops and restaurants, easy access to U.C., San Francisco, and public transportation.

\$345,000

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MILLION DOLLAR VIEW!

7315 Snake Road, Oakland
Open Sunday, January 30, 2-4:30



This spacious 4+ bedroom/3+ bath contemporary home captures an exquisite panoramic view of the Bay. Completely renovated in 2001, includes a gourmet kitchen with fabulous granite countertops and top quality appliances that flows into the family room. Also includes a master retreat with a huge walk-in closet and a warm elegant home office or au-pair. Perfect home for entertaining!

Offered at \$1,290,000

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January 30
2:00 to 4:30



BERKELEY HILLS 1,998,000
1015 Grand View Drive
Unparalleled custom view, 3 master suites, gourmet kitchen, cherrywood flrs, vaulted ceilings.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000



MONTCLAIR \$1,290,000
7315 Snake Road
1st open- Pano. view, Contemp. spacious and sunny. Completely remodeled, one of a kind kitchen.
Martha Shin 510-339-4565

Open House

SAN LEANDRO \$599,000
495 Lewis Avenue
1st open- Stunning restoration of this 3/2 North Area 1928 classic. Fully updated kitchen and baths, plus media and bonus rooms, refinished hardwood floors and much more, on a large landscaped lot.
www.EarleShenk.com 510-220-6407



LAUREL \$499,000
5040 Daisy Street
Very stylish 60's Contemp. Excellent condition. Two bedroom/ one bath, cathedral ceilings, wide oak plank floors, large eat-in kitchen, updated bath. Oversized sunny backyard. Extra big 2 car garage and storage. OPEN 1-5
Jennie Lippincott 510-384-3557

Open House

OAKLAND \$349,000
6401 Buena Ventura Avenue
Excellent opportunity to "fix it" your way in this 1940's charmer. Front and back yard with mature trees and foliage on a corner lot has Bay and City lights views. Don't miss this one!
Rosemary Greene 510-406-4424

By Appointment

MONTCLAIR \$629,000
Remodeled charm in Montclair. This updated 2 BR home has a newly remodeled custom kitchen, top quality finishes including granite countertops and a Travertine Stone floor. The spacious living and dining areas have large picture windows overlooking a tranquil wooded setting.
Michael Thompson 510-339-5775

By Appointment

OAKLAND \$529,000
Two story mixed use building with 3,000 sq ft! Zoned C-30. Three restrooms, two kitchens, high ceilings, open floor plan, five entrances with street access.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

ALLENDALE \$418,000
Very spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, move-in condition, nice street! Hardwood floors, granite counter tops, new tile, new kitchen and bathrooms. Lower Laurel, with easy access to freeways 580/880.
Loc Nguyen 510-339-4000

CLEAR LAKE \$8,000-\$10,000
This lot has access to electricity and water and has an in-tact septic tank. Previously a mobile home resided on this lot! Seller Motivated!
3314, 3322 Park Street.
Rochelle Anthony 510-339-4000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B18.

Market Indicator*		CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE				Information by INFO-TRAK Financial Data Services	
Last wk 5-500		This wk 5-375		www.mtgeinfo.com/cct			
COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Rates as of 1/25/05		
COMMENTS							
BayCal Financial Corp. 877-288-8368 DRE# 0116896 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.125...1.250 5.346...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...1.250 5.535...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.787...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.296...30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock, NEW Construction Home PUR		
Cal First Lending 877-414-8280 DRE# 0116854 Fees=\$1623	30-yr Fixed 5.000...2.000 5.242...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.653...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...2.000 4.730...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...1.500 4.780...30	FAST APRVL, JAN SPCL- NO APPRAISAL FEE BAD CREDIT & BANKRUPTCY OK Open Evngs and wknds Call 877-414-8280		
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 0137075 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.125...1.000 5.288...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...1.250 5.515...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...1.375 4.266...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...1.250 4.633...30	OPEN SAT&SUN, STATED OR NO INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE. CREDIT PROBLEMS O.K NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE.		
Countrywide Home Loans 888-903-9888	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	Pay Option ARM call...	5/1 ARM Jumbo call...	FREE pre-approval. Refinance/2nd homes. 100% financing/ no docs/ stated income 10 day purchase closings. 209-814-3448		
Custom Mgt Solutions 800-259-9510 DRE# 6038894 Fees=\$1170	30-yr Fixed 4.875...2.000 5.020...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...1.000 5.470...30	MTA - NEG AM.* 1.000*...1.000 3.910...45	15-yr Fixed 4.250...2.000 4.590...30	A-B-C-D Credit. 100% & 80/20 purch; 90% LTV in Bankruptcy. *Pot. neg am. No doc to 1M. Loans to \$4M. Foreclosure Buyouts.		
ditech.com 800-616-8208 DRE# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 5.000...2.000 5.295...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...2.000 5.621...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...2.000 5.003...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750...2.000 5.162...30	Apply online at www.ditech.com -Your mortgage solution. Delivered!		
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DRE# 6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.625 5.424...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.125 5.742...45	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.000*...1.000 4.903...45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs. *Pot. neg. amort. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com		
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1986	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.465...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.668...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.000 4.665...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.000 4.665...30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at marylightell.com Call 7days wk mightell@1stblackhawk.com		
Golden Gate Home Loans 877-246-5899 DRE# 6052720 Fees=\$1948	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	5/1 ARM call...	1-yr ARM call...	100% financing. No Income Verification!! Pmts 1-yr ARM L.O. @ \$500k \$1562/\$750k \$2344 *700 FICO; *Jumbos: 700 FICO+3 yr prepay		
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 0103392 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.450...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...1.000 5.575...30	5/1 Interest Only 4.625...1.000 4.824...30	No \$ Dwn 30-yr Fxd 5.990...1.000 6.190...30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR AN HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET TONS REFERRALS! BAD CREDIT OK		
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 0088762 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.590...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.716...30	15-yr Fixed 5.125...0.000 5.277...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125...0.000 5.259...30	Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction, Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans Great service. Over 25 years in Business		
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	6 month ARM call...		WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are avail! *3yr pp 80% LTV E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com		
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1634	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.588...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.789...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.912...30	3/1 ARM 4.250...0.000 4.331...30	No mortgage pmts with Reverse Mortgage 103% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK		
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 0122026 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.425...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.654...45	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.098...45	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 5.194...45	Good Credit Has Its Reward! No Income Check Loans! 1st or 2nd Mortgage Purh/Refi to 100%. saratogabancorp.com		
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	5/1 ARM call...	7/1 ARM call...	Purchases/Closings in just 7 days/no points Complimentary pre-approval - no cost Aval 7 days a week, including evenings		
Wells Fargo Home Mtg. 925-287-6903 Fees=\$1180	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	5/1 ARM Int Only call...	Rental Property call...	Purchase: Closings in just 7 days/no pts Jumbo Interest Only - Construction Loans Local - Call Today! (925)287-6903		
Wells Fargo Home Mtg. 866-809-1502 Fees=\$1431	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	5/1 ARM Jumbo* call...	10/1 ARM Jumbo call...	100% to 1 ML. Free Pre Approval Credit Lines to 3 ML. *Purchase loan		
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.465...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.710...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.810...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.570...30	OPEN WEEKENDS-LOCK YOUR RATE TODAY! ASK ABOUT THE 4-PAYMENT OPTION LOAN APPLY/PRE-APPROVE OVER THE PHONE		
Absolute Mortgage Fund. 888-90-HOMES DRE# 603 A776 Fees=\$1359	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.270...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.250 5.520...30	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.125 4.780...30	5/1 ARM 4.900...0.000 4.920...30	LOWEST RATES AND FEES IN THE INDUSTRY! FREE FLOAT-DOWNS!! FEES ARE ONLY \$399! CALL NOW! 888-90-HOMES		
AimLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.250 5.345...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.655...30	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.250 4.911...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.250 5.240...30	Direct Lender * Guaranteed Rates & Fees Apply & Lock 24/7 * Zero Down Interest Only * Open Sat/Sun 9-2 PT		
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 866-514-7283 DRE# 6038592 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.332...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.553...30	3/1 ARM 4.000...0.000 5.256...30	5/1 ARM 4.375...0.000 5.223...30	No closing costs loans available www.amerisave.com. Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300!		
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 DRE# 769452 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.000 5.554...35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.635...35	1st Time Buyer 30 4.250*...1.000 4.445...35	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.500*...1.000 3.687...35	1ST TIME BUYER 30 yr. fix @ 4.25%... *1st Time BUYER 30 yr. FIX after Fed Subsidy. Income & price limits. 100%OK		

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT RATES... AND MUCH MORE

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- ◆ Learn about each lender's products & services
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- ◆ Email questions/scenarios to lenders
- ◆ Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- ◆ Prequalify, preapprove or apply online

Rates based on \$175,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$359,650) based on \$400,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Look-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points. Fees are estimated costs based on a \$175,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website + contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781-276-1711

The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING

1106 Talbot Avenue, Albany
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This sunny bungalow has 2 bedrooms, matchstick hardwood floors, fireplace in the living room, spacious deck and garden, separate accessory building. Convenient location. Offered at \$549,000

ANNE FESTE
OFFICE: 339.0400/371
afestel@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

CASTLE ROCK REAL

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
OF
HOMES & APARTMENTS

528-9292

DAVID RATOOSH / KEITH CARROLL - BROKER

★ ★ AMAZING-LOWER ROCKRIDGE LISTING ★ ★
★ ★ Open House - Sunday, January 30, 2005 2-4pm ★ ★

4 Bedrooms/ 2 Baths

486-55th

Offered at \$819,000

Stately Restored Victorian

w/ the Perfect Yard for Entertaining

A Victorian in Lower Rockridge? Yes, and it's lovingly restored and updated with period style details. This home features 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, a formal living room with fireplace, elegant hanging from plaster rosettes, ornate brass fixtures throughout, a curved wooden wainscoting, pocket doors, and breathtaking 9 ft. leaded stained glass doors leading from the formal living room to the dining room. The eat-in kitchen features richly carved concrete counters, new Jenn-Air stainless steel appliances, 16" tile floors, a beamed ceiling, and a full basement. The deck off of the kitchen leads to an immaculate yard perfect for entertaining friends and features recycled chimney-brick patterned redwood fences and arbor.

Your new home is located on a cul-de-sac in convenient Lower Rockridge, close to all the great shops and restaurants in Rockridge & the bustling, historic Lower Rockridge District, and Frog Park is just around the corner. Easy access to BART and Highway 24 makes commuting to anywhere in the Bay Area a breeze. A classic home in a central location, what could be better?

Perry Riani, Realtor®
office 547-5970 ext. 61
Email priani@earthlink.net

Christopher Fobes
Broker Associate/Realtor®
office 510-547-5970 Ext 52
Email cfobes@ips.net

ONLINE TOUR @ www.486-55th.com

marvin
gardens
real estate1577 Solano Avenue
Berkeley CA 94707
510.527.27007502 Fairmount Avenue
El Cerrito CA 94530
510.527.9111259 Arlington Avenue
Kensington CA 94707
510.524.0800247 W. Richmond Avenue
Mt. Richmond CA 94021
510.231.1610

Berkeley \$560,000
NEW LISTING. Well built Berkeley 4-Plex. Spacious & well laid out one bedroom units. Large yard, 3 covered parking spaces.

2108-2110 8th St.
Kathie BergOpen Sun 2-4
527-2700x34

El Cerrito \$485,000
Charming 2 br/1 bath home in central location! Spacious, sunny living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, kitchen w/new floor and stove, new shower and floor in bath, new water heater. Large yard with many fruit trees. Walk to BART, Plaza, FatApple's.

148 Ashbury Ave.
Diana MendlerOpen Sun 2-4
559-2937

Richmond Annex \$429,000
Enjoy the Old World ambience in this 1931 bungalow. Features include large breakfast nook, living room w/period fireplace, veranda-like front porch, and garden. In perfect Richmond Annex location.

5819 Huntington Ave.
Joan UnderwoodOpen Sun 2-4
559-2937

Richmond View \$409,000
Great starter home. Convenient location in Richmond View. Wonderful 3 bedrooms, one bath home with fireplace, hardwood floors, all on a huge lot with expansion possibilities. Upgrades include mostly dual-pane windows, dishwasher, alarm system. Good condition allows for easy living.

766 Kern Street
Juliana WynbergOpen Sun 2-4
527-2700x31

Richmond N&E \$399,000
Fabulous 2 br/1 bath starter w/Berkeley-style touches thruout. Beautiful gourmet kitchen has gas stove, convection oven, butcher block countertop, stainless steel refrigerator. Gleaming hardwood floors, bonus Florida room. Private fenced yard, detached garage w/workshop.

2400 McBryde Ave.
Darrell HohOpen Sun 2-4
292-3040

Richmond N&E \$375,000
Sweet starter home has two bedrooms, one bath, and separate cottage. Beautiful remodeled eat-in kitchen, large formal living room, carpet over wood floors, spacious yard, some dual-pane windows.

1932 Rheem Ave.
Mary Lou LoomisOpen Sun 2-4
559-2937

www.marvingardens.com

ales

OM PAGE B10

- 1727 Foothill Bl - \$690,000
- 2438 Frances 12 - \$290,000
- 783 Franklin 319 - \$280,000
- 988 Franklin 321 - \$305,000
- 988 Franklin 602 - \$360,000
- 9910 Gibraltar Rd - \$560,000
- 933 Grosvenor Pl - \$965,000
- 414 Hale Av - \$325,000
- 7543 Hillmont Dr - \$375,000
- 2440 Humboldt - \$380,000
- 2532 Humboldt - \$465,000
- 157 Hunter Av - \$345,000
- 555 Jean St 432 - \$365,000
- 3124 Linden St - \$251,000
- 11100 Lochard - \$1,000,000
- 8585 Longwalk Dr - \$760,000
- 3207 Madeline St - \$545,000
- 1304 Magnolia St - \$463,500
- 5425 Market St - \$410,000
- 4153 Maybelle Av - \$485,000
- 800 McKinley Av - \$525,000
- 3251 Morcom Av - \$558,000
- 407 Orange St 208 - \$325,000
- 8430 Outlook Av - \$700,000
- 1103 Patterson Av - \$635,000
- 7055 Pinehaven Rd - \$800,000
- 10615 Pippin St - \$278,000
- 5463 Princeton St - \$352,000
- 2000 Rosedale Av - \$529,000
- 2907 Short St - \$313,000
- 8450 Skyline Bl - \$801,000
- 8863 Skyline Bl - \$900,000
- 9340 Sunnyside - \$405,000
- 738 Sycamore St - \$425,000
- 1937 Vicksburg Av - \$285,000
- 6178 Viewcrest Dr - \$910,000
- 9533 Walnut St - \$250,000
- 9801 Walnut St - \$308,000
- 321 Warwick 103 - \$317,000
- 4085 Waterhouse - \$759,000

EDMONT

- 43 Farragut - \$2,452,000

CHIMOND

- 228 15th St - \$352,000
- 611 16th St - \$600,000
- 635 24th St - \$375,000
- 155 2nd St - \$587,000
- 338 32nd St - \$335,000
- 451 34th St - \$364,500
- 659 40th St - \$385,000
- 111 41st St - \$419,000
- 1 A Dr - \$773,500
- 2538 Arlington - \$646,000
- 678 Carlson Bl - \$418,000
- 123 Crest Av - \$452,000
- 27 Crest Av - \$650,000
- 2809 Downer Av - \$302,000
- 1116 Eaglewood - \$590,500

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER.

- 351 E. Richmond - \$825,000
- 1176 Fairway Dr - \$455,000
- 605 Florida Av - \$298,000
- 1415 Garvin Av - \$405,000
- 720 Harrison Dr - \$360,000
- 340 Hawk Ridge - \$820,500

- 1515 Hayes St - \$357,000
- 318 Marina Wy - \$276,000
- 413 Metro Wlk - \$450,500
- 738 Monarch Ct - \$625,000
- 226 Nevlin Av - \$320,000
- 1539 Nevlin Plz - \$376,000

- 2716 Oxford Av - \$350,000
- 1516 Palm Av - \$445,000
- 3654 Park Ridge - \$745,000
- 2200 Roosevelt - \$572,500

See SALES, Page B16

Prudential California Realty

Cute As A Button

Welcome to this historic bungalow conveniently located in South Berkeley. This 2BR/1BA home sits on one of the biggest lots in the neighborhood. This home is in move-in condition. However, if you have that eye for design, you will definitely be able to see the tremendous potential to create your dream home out of this unique space. This home has been in the same family since it was built in the 1920's. Own a piece of Berkeley history!

www.2844stanton.com
\$425,000

Melinda Sudduth
Grinda
(925) 254-0440
51 Moraga Way, Ste. 1

NEW LISTING IN REDWOOD HEIGHTS

OPEN SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2-5PM

3378 Victor Avenue, Oakland

Charming, sun-filled ranch style home located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Beautiful random plank hardwood flooring in the spacious living room and adjoining dining room, and entryway. Two large bedrooms on the main level. Delightful kitchen with breakfast room and access to rear deck. Downstairs has a large family room, laundry room, bathroom, bonus room and storage area. Large rear yard, 2-car attached garage with interior access to home.

Offered at \$619,000

Diane Earl McCan
REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST
(510) 338-1352
Visit my website: www.dianemccan.com

www.pacunion.com

- SOLD -

38 Nace Avenue, Piedmont

I had the pleasure of representing the buyers of this beautifully remodeled Piedmont home.

- 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths • Kitchen/family room
- Formal dining room

Offered at \$1,295,000

Considering a move? Please give me a call.

ROBYN MOHR
(510) 338-1310
www.robymohr.com
robym@robymohr.com

COMING SOON

DELIGHTFUL REDWOOD HEIGHTS BUNGALOW

3378 Guido Street, Oakland

This charming split level home features a spacious, open floor plan, fresh paint and refinished hardwood floors. The comfortable home includes a living room with fireplace, formal dining, eat-in kitchen on the main level. A few steps up lead to two spacious bedrooms separated by a beautifully remodeled bath with tub and steam shower. There is a knotty pine rumpus/office down with adjacent laundry and small bath. The two-car garage has inside access. It is situated on a level, sunny lot close to public transit and a beautiful neighborhood park and playground. Great curb appeal.

Offered at \$579,000

Donna DeBardi
SENIOR SALES ASSOCIATE
510/338-1374

Open Sunday

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$619,000

3378 VICTOR AVE. (Open 2-5)
New Listing! Charming, sun-filled ranch style home on cul-de-sac. Random plank hardwood floors, 2BR/2BA, delightful kitchen with breakfast room & access to rear deck. Family room, bonus room & laundry room. Large yard, 2-car attached garage. Diane E. McCan x1352

OAKLAND HILLS \$615,000

8950 BARCELONA ST. (Open 2-4:30)
Lovely & serene 3+BR/2BA home w/over 1300 sq. ft. Spacious family room, living room & dining area. Remodeled kitchen. Large backyard w/patio. Detached studio is in need of TLC. Joanna Hirsch x1366

DIMOND \$549,000

3730 LAGUNA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Home & cottage! The perfect combination - a wonderfully detailed post Victorian 2+BR home w/a fully self-contained quaint cottage in the deep rear garden. Recent upgrades, fresh paint & lots of storage. Terrific neighborhood. Steven Blasatti x1379

By Appointment

OAKMORE \$1,475,000

Phil Perkins designed, ultra-sophisticated, 3-year old SF/hay view Contemporary. 5BR/4.5BA architectural masterpiece. Soaring spaces, glass/stainless details, bamboo & inlaid stone floors. Great kitchen/family room. Unique! Steven Blasatti x1379

By Appointment

MONTCLAIR \$1,079,000

Architecturally stunning 3BR/2.5BA home. Great room w/2-story ceilings & radiant heated concrete floors. Wall of floor-to-ceiling windows w/North Bay & hill views. 2-car attached garage. Donna Costella x1355

By Appointment

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$649,000

Serene 3BR/2BA home perfect for entertaining. Remodeled eat-in kitchen w/ granite counters & stainless steel appliances. French doors leading to the patio. Family room. Carla Buffington x1367

EMERYVILLE \$439,000

Gorgeous top floor corner unit in sophisticated newer building. Beautiful views of the Berkeley hills. Spacious deck, wood floors, laundry in unit. Other amenities: sauna, workout room, conference center & great commute location. Donna DeBardi x1374

ROCKRIDGE \$420,000

Elegantly remodeled 2BR/2BA condo. Private deck & a beautiful unfiltered view of the golf course. Large windows provide natural light to the master suite & living/dining areas. Secure building w/ground floor parking. Martha Holstlaw x1312

Coming Soon

OAKLAND HILLS LOT \$1,280,000

Prime lot w/inspirational Bay & SF views. Secluded 1/2+ acre parcel located at the end of a cul-de-sac. Spectacular home design by Philip Perkins w/large level area embraced on 3 sides by the home. Minutes to Highway 13. David Ichikawa x1331

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,142,000

Wonderful Monterey Traditional w/beautiful original details, some bay views, beamed cathedral ceiling. Recently remodeled & updated, brick paths meander through pretty gardens up to the house. Leslie Avant x1341

ROCKRIDGE \$729,000

Charming light-filled 1910 Bungalow. Remodeled kitchen opens to deck & level yard. Formal dining room w/built-ins & wood detailing. Remodeled bath, wood floors, full basement. Garage converted to office/studio. Near BART & shops. Donna DeBardi x1374

BERKELEY price upon request

Charming North Berkeley 1940s 2+BR/2.5BA home! Blocks to BART, Totland & gourmet shops. Office/studio with exterior access with half bath. Fireplace & garage. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section for

★ ★ NEW ROCKRIDGE LISTING! ★ ★
 ★ ★ Open House - Sunday, January 30, 2005 1-5pm ★ ★



3+ Bedrooms/ 1 Bathroom
 5231 Coronado Avenue
 Offered @ \$649,000

Charming Craftsman Bungalow in Rockridge

Rockridge continues to be one of the East Bay's most desirable neighborhoods. Here is your chance to own a great craftsman bungalow close to everything. This home features 3 plus bedrooms and a recently updated kitchen and beautiful "period" style bathroom complete with a claw footed tub with beautiful fixtures and finishes. A formal dining room and living room with original architectural detailing really makes this home special. Features like the gleaming hardwood floors, original ceiling detailing, an enclosed front porch, and leaded glass windows make it worth a visit. This home has been lovingly maintained and offers a low pest report, upgraded systems, newer roof, and seismic retrofitting. There is extra storage in the detached shed and plenty of room for extra supplies in the laundry room. The backyard is a real treat with a wood deck, grassy area, and a lovely garden; a great place to relax with friends and family.

This home is located on a great tree-lined street in Rockridge and is close to College Avenue Shops and many Fine Restaurants, Market Hall, BART, Freeways, Casual Carpooling to SF, Berkeley, Downtown Oakland, Emeryville, and Great Coffee. As a bonus Piedmont Avenue is just a few short blocks away!

Ron Kriss, Broker
 510-547-5970 Ext 55
 ronkriss@jps.net



ONLINE TOUR @ www.5231Coronado.Com

Holmgren & Associates

is pleased
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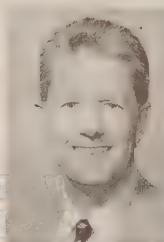


Joe Acker

1955 Mountain Blvd., #109
 Oakland, CA 94611
 510-339-4450 phone
 510-339-4452 fax
 joe@mortgageholmgren.com

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1900 Mountain Blvd.
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 510-339-2121 phone
 510-339-1004 fax
 john@mortgageholmgren.com



For Immediate Release MAGANY ABBASS JOINS RE/MAX ACCORD

RE/MAX ACCORD OF LAFAYETTE
 is pleased to announce that
 MAGANY ABBASS, J.D.
 has joined the firm as Associate-Broker

Magany brings with her 24 years of active real estate experience. She is a consistent top-producer and specializes in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties where she has lived with her family for 30 years. Her experience spans residential, commercial, and investment properties.

Magany earned a Juris Doctor from JFK University School of Law in 1995 and a Masters of Law from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. Her clients benefit from her legal training and her ability to guide them through difficulties that may arise.

Magany is a Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS), Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) and a e-Pro.

Whether you need to purchase or sell real estate, contact Magany for "the Smooth Sailing Real Estate Experience™" at 925.297.0346 or at www.Maganyrealestate.com



RE/MAX
 Accord

Call Magany at (925) 297-0346

JUST LISTED



Open Sat
 1:00-4:00

366 Oakland Avenue, Oakland

Convenient to Piedmont Ave. & transportation. Upper level; Hardwood Floors, Dining Room w/built-ins, fireplace. Downstairs; 2/1 w/separate entrance.

Offered at \$589,000

Julie Joyce

Realtor

510-339-4725 Direct

COLDWELL BANKER
 RESIDENTIAL

UNIQUE CUSTOM HOME WITH BAY VIEWS

333 Scenic Avenue, Piedmont

Open Sunday 2-5pm

Offered at \$975,000



New Listing!

This sun-filled contemporary offers an ideal floor plan for indoor-outdoor entertaining. Two bedrooms and two baths on upper level. Elegant living room and dining room open to private patio with Bay views. Additional rooms, one bath on lower level.

Haideh Chew

Office (510) 339-4718

Direct (510) 387-9029

COLDWELL BANKER
 NORTHERN CALIF.

JUST LISTED



Open Sat
 2:00-4:00

Glenview ~ 1676 Miami Court, Oakland

Charming Bungalow 3 Bedrooms, 2+ baths, laundry, sun porch & eat-in kitchen. Serene yard with lawn deck, garage with storage. Great price!

Offered at \$549,000

Joan Duffield

Realtor

510-339-4774 Direct

COLDWELL BANKER
 RESIDENTIAL

JUST LISTED OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

1606 TRESTLE GLEN ROAD
 CROCKER HIGHLANDS

Charming English style fixer-upper in desirable location. 2+ bedrooms, 1.5 baths, wonderful backyard with patio, pond & terraced garden. Great architectural detailing.

Offered at \$575,000



Dian Hymer, CRS

Associate Broker

510-339-4777

Photo Tours At:

dianhymer.com

COLDWELL BANKER
 RESIDENTIAL

COMING SOON IN PIEDMONT

Located on a lovely street, this charming 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath traditional, with Art Deco accents, offers wonderful indoor-outdoor living on a sunny site with filtered south Bay views.

Offered at \$1,695,000



Dian Hymer, CRS

Associate Broker

Previous Property Specialist

510-339-4777

Photo Tours At:

dianhymer.com

Previous International

COLDWELL BANKER
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Hills Newspapers: Your number one source for up-to-date East Bay real estate information.

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California Realty

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Selling a home has
many important aspects.
We want to help you
make and keep more
money from your sale.



Claire Cunningham
Realtor, Fine Homes Specialist, MA

David Cunningham
Director of Planned Giving, USF,
CFRE, MA, Realtor

PIEDMONT BEAUTY



OPEN SAT 2-4, SUN 1-4
11 ABBOTT WAY, PIEDMONT

Lovely contemporary with sweeping San Francisco Bay views sits in quiet cul-de-sac. 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, eat-in kit w/adjoining fam rm. lge fam rm has soaring ceilings, gas fireplace & door to deck. Bright, bright, spacious rms thru-out, lge spacious decks overlooking bay views. Huge recreation rm w/clo w/ wet bar & refrig. Fifth bedroom on lower floor would be perfect for an au-pair. Bonus rm off Master bedroom - ideal office or exercise room.

\$1,295,000



Jerilynn Babington
925-253-4601
510-547-1615



www.discriminatinghomes.com

24 Saroni Ct., Montclair

Open Sunday
Jan. 30
1-5 pm



Twilight Tour
Feb. 3
5-7:30 pm

Stylish Contemporary With Views!

Located in desirable Montclair, this fabulous 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths home was built in 1999 with towards the BAY. Tranquil cul-de-sac setting invites one to enjoy the great floor plan designed for easy, yet sophisticated living. A large cook's kitchen with island and family room combo opens to private deck. Open floor plan with views to formal dining and living room and fireplace. A lavish master suite looks towards the Bay and has ample walk-in closet and large master bath complete with jacuzzi tub and stall shower, and there's a deck to relax and enjoy the peaceful setting. There's a big bonus room and more!!!



Offered at \$998,000

Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
View photos @ www.donnaconroy.com



NEW LISTING



Rockridge ~ 5812 Clover Drive

Circa 1927, this Traditional home has an inviting curb appeal, & a nice floor plan. There is a foyer & window seat, spacious living room with FP, formal dining room, gleaming HWF, & huge attic. 3BR/1.5BA. BART, shops on College Ave, & E-Z access to the Freeway are all close by.

Asking \$699,000



Ruby Ng, CRS
Broker Associate
510-339-4779
photo.rubyng.com



COLDWELL BANKER

www.CaliforniaMoves.com

Berkeley 510.486.1495 • Oakland 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Berkeley \$7,250,000
Magnificent estate. 9 BR 4.5 BA
Hudson Thomas designed home
known as the "Spring Mansion".
Includes 3BR house & 2BR cottage on
over 3.2 acres. Tennis court.
Kim & Barbara Marienthal
510.486.1495

Piedmont Hills \$2,250,000
4.5 BA Phil Perkins design
Beautiful new construction, gourmet
kitchen, level court yard great master
bedroom.
David Eckert 510.339.4700



Oakland \$1,550,000
Crocker Highlands. 4 BR 3 full BA
2nd floor. Spacious traditional.
Private park-like backyard, great
neighborhood, beautifully renovated,
move-in ready, Old World Charm.
Dian Hymer 510.339.4700

REAL ESTATE
FIRM OF THE
YEAR!

Honored by the East Bay Business Times



OPEN HOUSES



Oakland, Montclair \$1,850,000
6343 Skyline Blvd. Sun 2 - 4
4 BR 3.5 BA Open flr plan, gran cnts,
quality materials & craftsmanship
used. 3 Lvl w/bay views.
Kim & Barbara Marienthal
510.486.1495



Upper Rockridge \$1,294,900
264 Sheridan Rd Sun 2 - 4:30
6 BR 4.5 BA Fantastic house w/
flexible spaces. Mstr BR w/ den &
2-way FP. 2 jr suites, Fam rm & more!
Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos
510.339.4700

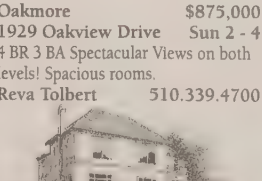


Montclair \$998,000
24 Saroni Court Sun 1 - 5
3 BR 2.5 BA Nearly new & views!
CulDeSac. Soaring ceilings lavish
master suite, cooks kitchen Bonus rm.
Donna Conroy & Carol Brown
510.339.4700

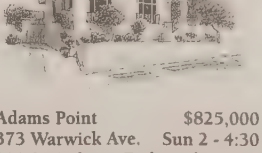
OPEN HOUSES



Piedmont \$975,000
333 Scenic Ave. Sun 2 - 5
Sun filled Contemp. w/ Bay views
2 BD 2 BA on upper lvl, add. rooms &
1 bath on lower lvl.
Haideh Chew 510.339.4700



Oakmore \$875,000
1929 Oakview Drive Sun 2 - 4
4 BR 3 BA Spectacular Views on both
levels! Spacious rooms.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700



Adams Point \$825,000
373 Warwick Ave. Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 2 BA Elegant Traditional w/
French doors + rich wood detail.
Updated kitchen & baths. Level yd.
Dan Joy & Leslie Wei
510.339.4700

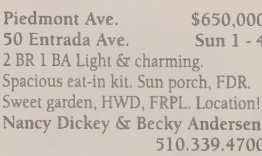


Rockridge \$699,000
5812 Clover Drive Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 1.5 BA 1927 circa! A nice floor
plan-a spacious living room, formal
dining room, HWF, FP.
Karen Lum & Jeffrey Neidleman
510.339.4700

OPEN HOUSES



Sequoyah Heights \$650,000
4300 St. Andrews Sun 2 - 5
Lovely 3-bedroom, 2-bath w/studio,
updt kitchen, FDR, fam rm, LR
w/fplc, waterfall & pond.
Adele M. Wong 510.339.4700



Piedmont Ave. \$650,000
50 Entrada Ave. Sun 1 - 4
2 BR 1 BA Light & charming.
Spacious eat-in kit. Sun porch, FDR.
Sweet garden, HWF, FRPL. Location!
Nancy Dickey & Becky Andersen
510.339.4700



Oakland \$589,000
366 Oakland Sat/Sun 1 - 4
2 BR 1 BA Convenient to Piedmont
Ave. & trans. HWF, DR w/ built-ins,
FP, downstairs w/ sep. entrance.
Julie Joyce 510.339.4700

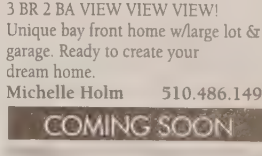


Crocker Highlands \$575,000
1606 Trestle Glen Rd. Sun 2 - 4:30
2+BD, 1.5 BA Charming English fixer
w/ great potential. Vaulted living room
ceiling, wonderful garden.
Dian Hymer & Kayrn Miller
510.339.4700

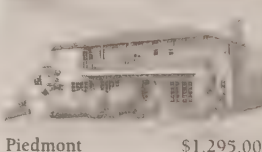
OPEN HOUSES



Glenview \$549,000
1676 Miami Ct Sat/Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Charming trad. w/eat-in
kit, 3rd bedroom w/ own bath, deck
& level yard. Garage + storage.
Preston Grant 510.339.4700



Pinole \$519,000
1278 Hazel Sun 1 - 4
3 BR 2 BA VIEW VIEW VIEW!
Unique bay front home w/large lot &
garage. Ready to create your
dream home.
Michelle Holm 510.486.1495



Piedmont \$1,295,000
Sunny traditional, desirable Piedmont
location, 4+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths,
spacious living room, formal dining,
update kitchen bay view.
Dian Hymer 510.339.4700



Berkeley \$775,000
3 BR 2 BA Gourmet Ghetto Duplex.
Approx 1850 sq ft. Top flr w/2BD/1BA,
lwr w/1BD/1BA. Deliv. vacant.
John Michael Powers
510.486.1495



1495 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley



6137 La Salle Avenue, Oakland

Sales

FROM PAGE B13

2136 Sand Dollar - \$375,000
324 Sanford Av - \$326,000
303 Seaciff Wy - \$813,500
2510 Shane Dr - \$350,000
124 South 15th St - \$370,000
158 South 35th - \$291,000
390 South St - \$330,000
5021 State Av - \$464,000
5741 Tehama Av - \$545,000
2121 Virginia Av - \$364,000
3617 Waller Av - \$320,000
823 W. Meadow - \$850,000

SAN LEANDRO

1511 136th Av 6 - \$296,500
1615 137th Av - \$505,000
2123 166th Av - \$585,000
1561 167th Av - \$457,500
1125 Adason - \$475,000
1865 Benedict Dr - \$685,000
348 Caliente Dr - \$356,000
15910 Carolyn St - \$465,000
760 Cary Dr - \$662,000

15055 Costela St - \$580,000
15653 Fantail Ct - \$640,000
15491 Goldeneye - \$530,000
16095 Gramercy - \$580,000
15429 Jutland Av - \$540,000
1246 Margery Av - \$500,000
16130 Maubert Av - \$650,000
16276 Maubert Av - \$430,000
14787 Oleander St - \$611,500
1552 Orchard Av - \$675,000
1975 Pacific Av - \$455,000
2195 Placer Dr - \$590,000
1653 Renaissance - \$574,500
13608 Rose Dr - \$470,000
2579 San Leandro - \$335,000
1599 Thrush Av - \$500,000
483 Violet St - \$430,000

SAN LORENZO

590 Hacienda Av - \$525,000
958 Hacienda Av - \$540,000
639 Via Alamo - \$435,000
663 Via Mirabel - \$489,000
16028 Via Segundo - \$492,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST PRICE: \$415,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,300,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$611,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$626,500

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$400,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$590,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$525,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$501,600

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST PRICE: \$199,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,525,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$675,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$721,625

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$1,000,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,000,000

See SALES, Page B13

PLEASE RECYCLE.

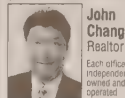
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\$6,950
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3807/28A 1489 Sq Ft 9 years new
- 2142 Santa Clara, Alameda
4+80/78A updated Victorian
- 1964 42nd Ave, Oakland
Cozy 280/18A upgrades, views, lrg lot.
- 865 37th St., Oakland
4 plex - large 280/18A units - parking
- 1713 Nason St., Alameda
Sold 10 days, \$17,000 higher than asking
- 1927 Gaspar Dr., Oakland
Sold for \$35,000 higher than asking

TERE LEE
李麗珠
814-4840 or
810-6735 pgr
Harbor Bay Realty

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OAKLAND

534 HENRY ST.
Single level 2+ bdrm/office area. Home - built 1981 Interior designed by architect. Skylights & windows create an abundance of natural light. Hot tub in bldg
PENDING \$469,000

SAN LEANDRO

14182 OUTRIGGER DRIVE
2 bdrm/2 bath upper unit at Marina Seagate
Vaulted ceilings Beautiful condition
SOLD \$380,000

15639 ANCHORAGE AVE.
Bright, beautiful 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home at Heron Bay
SOLD \$585,000

CASTRO VALLEY

4419 EWING RD. GORGEOUS 3500 sf single level home in Parsons Estates, addition completed in 1992. Huge formal dining & living rooms, great room w/full bar & custom cabinets. Large bedrooms, marble master bathroom. Jacuzzi tub. 3 fireplaces, A/C, wood plantation shutters, dual pane windows, hardwood floors, central vac surround sound, 2 car garage, 2 covered spaces 4 bdrms, 3 1/2 baths. Near Parson Park, back entrance to Lake Chabot, Chabot Swim & Recreation Center, in the Proctor School District
SOLD \$888,000

ALAMEDA

2610 BAYVIEW DRIVE
Enchanting view of the bay from this rare single level home! 3 bdrms, 2 baths with hardwood floors. Norlich tankless water heater
SOLD \$618,000

2017 EAGLE AVE.
Outstanding elegant duplex, built in 1988. Great opportunity for owner/investor
SOLD \$799,000

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

View Photo To
On The Web



810-816 Erie St., Oakland

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New Listing! Spanish Medir. 4-plex w/light-filled 1-bdrm units. Spacious w/formal dining & lots of built-ins. Decorative fireplaces, hwd floors, lots of windows. Near Lakeshore shopping & restaurants. Garage & extra storage for each unit. Good investment opportunity.
Gertrude Villanueva \$899,000
524-9888 x42



512 Richmond Street, El Cerrito

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

Sweet bungalow in great location close to El Cerrito Plaza and BART. 2 bedrooms and 1 remodeled bath plus a light-filled studio in back. Lots of dual-pane windows and light. Formal dining, hwd floors. Large kitchen w/pantry. Nice bldg. 1-car garage.
Chris Ehlers-Hardie \$449,000
524-9888 x22



7002 Carol Court, El Cerrito

By Appointment

Wonderful mid-century 3-bdrm, 2-bath home on quiet cul-de-sac nr Hillside Natural Area & Del Norte BART Station. Easy indoor/outdoor from kitchen/dining area to garden & patio. Bonus rm can be used as dark rm, work rm, etc. Freshly painted interior & refinished hwd flrs. One-car garage w/lots of storage.
Terese Ashman \$515,000
524-9888 x11

"I wanted to thank you for all your help selling the house. In retrospect it seems like the time flew by with no stress at all. We appreciate all that you have done! Please use us as a reference any time so we can repay all that you have done for us."
—T. B. & S. B., Albany

Albany • Berkeley • El Cerrito • Emeryville • Kensington • Oakland • Piedmont • Richmond • and beyond

GET AWAY WITHOUT HAVING TO GET AWAY.

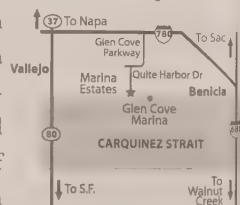


100 Chartmaster Place, Vallejo, CA 94591 • 707-648-2309
Open Mon. and Fri. 12-5; Sat. and Sun. 11-5
www.denovahomes.com

DeNova Homes

WATERSIDE LIVING OVERLOOKING THE GLEN COVE MARINA FROM THE HIGH \$900s!

Welcome to Marina Estates. A rare, limited collection of distinctive new homes overlooking Glen Cove Marina and the tranquil waterways of the Carquinez Strait. More than just a spectacular setting, you'll discover a prestigious Glen Cove address surrounded by shopping, dining, convenience and a premier commute location. And each of these luxurious residences, ranging from 3,063 to 3,500 square feet, is graciously appointed with designer-selected features and amenities considered upgrades anywhere else! So with only two homes remaining don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the waterside living you've always imagined!



MARINA ESTATES

Actual Photo From Lot

ales

LOW PAGE B16
MEDIAN PRICE: \$615,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$674,000

SOMERANTE
TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$345,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$777,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$480,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$534,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$195,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$731,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$431,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$449,688

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 112
LOWEST PRICE: \$230,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,700,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$410,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$490,491

FREDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$2,452,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 43
LOWEST PRICE: \$276,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$850,000

MEDIAN PRICE: \$405,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$468,570

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 26
LOWEST PRICE: \$296,500

HIGHEST PRICE: \$685,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$530,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$522,231

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 5

LOWEST PRICE: \$435,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$540,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$492,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$496,200

PLEASE RECYCLE.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



1865 University Avenue, Berkeley
Offered at \$1,599,000

Real estate only,
zoned commercial

Approx. 10,250 sq. ft. lot.
Approx. 6,800 sq. ft. + loft/mezzanine interior.

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Broker-Associate
(510) 868-1446



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Prudential
California Realty

November



Henriette Lanier Green
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Prudential
California Realty

December



David Lockett
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Julie Lehman



Jay Lean

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outstanding service to our clients. We present to you the best in the
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Barbara Reynolds
#1 Congratulations
Barbara!



Wendy Louie



Warwick May



Terrence Jue



June McDaniels



Candice Economides
& David Hill



Kathy Close



Jake McTigue



Lela Logene Butler



Janet Kaplan

Congratulations,
and thanks for your work!



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Berkeley Regional Office

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Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contracostatimes.com



Alameda

\$380,000	2035 Otis Drive C	2BD/1BA
Sat & Sun 2-4	South Shore	510-814-4845
Harbor Bay Realty	Marilyn Pomeroy	
\$395,000	339 Broadway #203	2BD/2BA
Sat & Sun 2-4	Central	510-814-4827/814-4826
Harbor Bay Realty	M. McIntyre/D. Williams	
\$489,500	1095 Melrose Ave.	2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	Bay Farm Island	510-814-4819
Harbor Bay Realty	Nancy & Chuck Bianchi	
\$519,000	1824 Elm St	2BD/1BA
Sat & Sun 2-4		510-919-9811
Alameda Realty	Barbara Kolodziejski	
\$580,000	838 Central Ave	2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	Central	510-814-4826
Harbor Bay Realty	Donna Luc Williams	
\$599,000	3269 Briggs Ave	2/1, 1/1
Sat & Sun 2-4	Duplex	510-303-2525
Alameda Realty	Bette Barr	
\$615,000	1430 St. Charles St	Duplex
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-9290
Prudential	Lisa Friedman	
\$630,000	1316 9th Street	3+BD/2BA
Sat & Sun 2-4	Gold Coast	510-814-4861/814-4884
Harbor Bay Realty	Susan Battaglia/Izabella Lipetski	
\$660,000	1611 Willow Street	Duplex
Sat & Sun 2-4	Victorian	510-748-1158/748-1125
Gallagher & Lindsey	Tom Bennett/Troy Staten	
\$920,000	1221 Grand Street	4BD/1, 2BA
Sun 2-4	Central	510-814-4818/814-4882
Harbor Bay Realty	Steve Cressy/Antoinette Bertolani	
\$949,000	2110 Encinal	4+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-9290
Prudential	Vince Moran	
\$999,800	1133 Regent St	Triplex
Sat 1-4:30	East End	510-828-3118
Kane & Associates	Kathie & Patrick Ng	
\$1,199,000	1729 San Antonio Ave	6BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-9290 x248
C21 Heritage	Andrea Gordon	
\$1,200,000	3255-3257 Fernside Blvd	Zhomes/1lot
Sat & Sun 2-4		510-748-1166/748-1121
Gallagher & Lindsey	The Basoras/Angela McIntyre	

Albany

\$429,000	404 Cornell Ave	2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30pm		510-280-2154
Red Oak Realty	Jane Ishibashi	
\$549,000	1106 Talbot Avenue	2+BD/1+BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Anne Feste	
\$579,000	885 Washington	2BD/1BA
OPEN Sun 2-4:30 Duplex		510-527-8777
Investment House Realty	Jeanne Yee, Agt.	

Berkeley

\$389,000	2371 Virginia St #1	1BD/1BA
Sun 1-4pm		510-280-2148
Red Oak Realty	Francine Di Palma	
\$399,000	1401 Alton Crescent	2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4pm		510-848-1950x251
Thornwall Properties	Linda Wolan	
\$489,000	2332 California St	2BD/1BA
Sun 1-4:30pm		510-280-2120
Red Oak Realty	Jimmy Reina	
\$560,000	2108-2110 8th St	4-plex
Open Sun 2-4pm		510-527-2700 x34
Marvin Gardens	Kathie Berg	
\$675,000	28 Vallejo St	2+BD/2+BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Thousand Oaks	510-524-3840
Millstein & Assoc	Sheri Madden	
\$750,000	3085 Buena Vista Way	4+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-652-2133
The Grubb Co.	The Ratcliffes	
\$795,000	1228 Shattuck Ave	3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	North Berkeley	510-845-8324
Norman & Ng	Mlan Ng	
\$1,055,000	2601 Benvenue Ave	3+BR/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-652-2133
The Grubb Co.	Susie Schevill	
\$1,395,000	1241 Grizzly Peak	5+BD/3.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-652-2133
The Grubb Co.	Ruth Frassetto	
\$1,450,000	901 Hilldale Avenue	5BD/4.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		531-7000 x262
Wells & Bennett Realtors	Teri L. Lester	
\$1,495,000	880 Grizzly Peak	4BD/3.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Jill Carrigan	
\$1,998,000	1015 Grand View Dr	5BD/4.5BA
Sun 1:30-4:30pm	Berkeley Hills	510-339-4000
Montclair Better Homes	Ken Nwokedi	
487,000	2542 McGee Ave	2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm		510-868-1515
Prudential	Diane Ohlsson	

Castro Valley

\$579,000	4045 Meadowlark Ct	3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-9290
Prudential	Michael Stephens	

El Cerrito

\$399,000	6806 Gladys Ave.	1BD/1BA
Open Sun 1-3:30		510-677-2677
Assist 2 Sell	B. Rosario	

El Cerrito

\$485,000	148 Ashbury Ave	2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm		510-559-2937
Marvin Gardens	Diana Mandler	
\$499,000	512 Richmond St	2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30pm		510-524-9888 x22
Berkeley Hills Realty	Chris Ehlers-Hardie	
\$515,000	828 Liberty St	2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm		510-303-8245
Coldwell Banker Bartels	Sil Addego	
\$599,000	1244 Lawrence	3+BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4pm		510-280-2107
Red Oak Realty	Marsha Quick	
\$739,000	1631 Arlington	3BD/3BA
Sun 2-4pm		510-280-2108
Red Oak Realty	Robin Kingsbury	
\$980,000	1421 Liberty	6 Units
Sun 2-4pm		510-280-2189
Red Oak Realty	Nicole Forte	

Kensington

\$719,000	5 Franciscan Way	3BD/2BA
Sun 2-5pm		510-292-2013
Red Oak Realty	Todd Andrew	
\$825,000	242 Yale Avenue	3BD/1+BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-652-2133
The Grubb Co.	Ruth Frassetto	
\$1,800,000	1 Norwood Place	2+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-652-2133
The Grubb Co.	Bebe Mcrae	

Lafayette

\$1,249,000	1640 Reliez Valley Rd	5BD/3BA
Open Sun 1-4		888-742-4999
Alain Pinel Realtors	Rich Nemeth	

Oakland

\$75,000	730 29th St #103	Commercial
Sun 2-4pm		510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty	Sara Garabedian	
\$199,000	730 29th St #115	Commercial
Sun 2-4pm		510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty	Sara Garabedian	
\$250,000	871 35th St	3BD/1.25BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Central Oakland	510-845-0211
Prudential	Gabriel Shipp	
\$335,000	5920 Hayes	2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4		510-748-1197
Gallagher & Lindsey	Jose Cerda-Zein	
\$349,000	6401 Buena Ventura Ave	2+BD/4.24BA
Sun 2-4:30pm		510-486-4424
Montclair Better Homes	Rosemary Greene	
\$359,000	311 Oak Street #828	-BD/-BA
Sun 1-4	Studio Flat	925-286-6772
Diablo Realty	Kathy Monthei	
\$359,000	427 Lagunitas Ave #105	2BD/2BA
Sun 1-4pm	Adams Point	510-595-7699
RE/MAX	Dave Higgins	
\$360,000	195 Santa Clara Ave #8	2BD/2BA
Sun 2-5pm		510-834-2010
Prudential	John F. Bell	
\$370,000	1332 102nd Ave	2BD/1BA
Sun 1-4pm		510-712-0073
Prudential	Martin Holmes	
\$387,000	3340 Harrison St	3+BD/1+BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm		510-527-5741
RE/MAX	Anne Foreman	
\$389,000	730 29th St #207	1BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm		510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty	Sara Garabedian	
\$428,000	801 Franklin St. #1406	2BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4		510-814-4892
Harbor Bay Realty	Eunice Edwards	
\$429,000	3321 Morcom Ave	2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm		510-280-2012
Red Oak Realty	Aaron Bakuyot	
\$439,000	1084 56th St	3BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm	North Oakland	510-638-4134
RE/MAX	Stephanie Christmas	
\$459,000	2316 Lakeshore Ave #3	2BD/2BA
Sun 1-4pm	Lake Merritt	510-595-7699
RE/MAX	Dave Higgins	
\$459,000	4101 Howe #104	2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm		510-450-7777
Prudential	Bill Miller	
\$459,000	972 43rd St.	3BD/1BA
Sat & Sun 2-4		510-521-5210 x17/301-1942
Centennial Real Estate	Laurie L. Lacey	
\$459,000	1964 42nd Ave	2BD/1BA
Sun 1-4		510-755-4003
Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes	John Chang	
\$469,000	610 Jean St	2BD/2+BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Rose Garden	510-835-6026
Prudential	Jackie Care	
\$489,000	2933-2935 Florida St	2 Units
Sun 1-4pm	Laurel District	510-845-0211
Prudential	Adrianne Nash	
\$499,000	5040 Daisy St	2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Laurel	510-384-3557
Montclair Better Homes	Jennie Lippincott	
\$499,000	8341 Outlook Ave	3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Oakland Hills	510-834-2010
Prudential	Tara Banks	

Oakland

\$525,000	5679 Carberry Avenue	3+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-652-2133
The Grubb Co.	The Ratcliffes	
\$539,000	3378 Victor Ave	2+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-5	Redwood Heights	510-338-1352
Pacific Union Residential	Diane E. McCann	
\$545,000	520 Oakland	Duplex
Sun 2-4pm		510-292-2021
Red Oak Realty	Linda Elkin	
\$549,000	1676 Miami Court	3BD/2BA
Sat & Sun 2-4:30	Glenview	510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Preston Grant	
\$549,000	3730 Laguna -BD/-BA+ Cottage	3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Dimond	510-338-1379
Pacific Union Residential	Steven Blasatti	
\$549,000	5312 Manila Ave	1BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Rockridge	510-339-6290
Prudential	Finola Fellner	
\$549,000	57 Abbott Drive	2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Montclair	510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Kurt Buchholz	
\$575,000	1606 Trestle Glen Rd.	2+BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4:30	Crocker Highlands	510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Dian Hymen & Karyn Miller	
\$579,000	2471 Burlington Street	3BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Lincoln Heights	531-7000 x232
Wells & Bennett Realtors	Tracy Butler	
\$595,000	5926 Sayre Dr	3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4pm		510-292-2014
Red Oak Realty	Stacey Merryman	
\$589,000	366 Oakland	2BD/1BA
Sat & Sun 1-4		510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Julie Joyce	
\$599,000	68 Garland	6BD/2+BA
Sun 2-4:30pm		510-339-9290
Prudential	Bresser & Boze	
\$615,000	2619 38th Ave	6BD/4BA
Sun 2-4	Laurel	510-814-4892
Harbor Bay Realty	Eunice Edwards	
\$615,000	8960 Barcelona St	3+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-338-1366
Pacific Union Residential	Joanna Hirsch	
\$625,000	308 49th Street	2BD/2BA ea.
Sun. 2-4pm	2 houses/1 lot	510-834-9033
Investco	Ann	
\$625,000	452 Creighton Way	3BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Crestmont	510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Sherry Benninger	
\$629,000	2012 Melvin Rd	3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Oakmont	510-339-9290
Prudential	Tami Bobb	
\$649,000	5515 Moraga Avenue	3BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Mary Merrick	
\$650,000	4300 St. Andrews	3+BD/2BA
Sun 2-5	Sequoiah Heights	510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Adele M. Wong	
\$659,000	4151 Park Blvd	3BD/1.5BA
Sun 1-4:30pm		510-280-2155
Red Oak Realty	Josh Levine	
\$675,000	452 Cavar St.	2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm	Rockridge	510-868-1487
Prudential	Barbara Reynolds	
\$699,000	1848 Gaspar	3+BD/2+BA
Sun 2-5pm	Montclair	510-866-9556
Prudential	Jay Lean	
\$699,000	524 Spruce	3BD/1.5BA
Sun. 1-4pm		510-444-4480
Owner	Rose Neld	
\$699,000	5812 Clover Dr.	3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4:30	Rockridge	510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Ruby Ng	
\$725,000	684 Santa Ray Ave	3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Crocker Highlands	531-7000 x246
Wells & Bennett Realtors	Stan Hammond	
\$729,000	2319-2321 11th Ave	2 units
Open Sun 2-4:30pm		510-450-7777
Prudential	Phil Fair	
\$789,000	6451 Melville Dr.	4BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Piedmont Pines	510-339-9290
Prudential	Gene Boomer	
\$795,000	4427 Harbord Drive	4BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Upper Rockridge	510-339-8900 x232
C21 Heritage	Dione Cota	
\$810,000	610 Chetwood Street	3+BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Anlan Pettit Tunney	
\$825,000	373 Warwick Avenue	4BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30	Adams Point	510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Dan Joy & Leslie Wei	
\$899,000	810-816 Erie St	4BD/4BA
Sun 2-4pm	Lakeshore 4plx	510-524-9888 x42
Berkeley Hills Realty	Gertrude Villanueva	
\$949,000	6690 Grivin Dr	3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Montclair	510-339-9290
Prudential	Flint/Marchesotti	
\$998,000	24 Saroni Ct.	3BD/2.5BA
Sun 1-5	Montclair	510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Donna Conroy & Carol Brown	
\$1,150,000	644 Chetwood Street	5 Units
Open Sun 2-4:30	Grand Lake	510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Sheila Gallagher	
\$1,199,000	6167 Ocean View Dr	4BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Claremont Pines	510-339-9290
Prudential	Heldi Marchesotti	
\$1,290,000	7315 Snake Rd	4+BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30pm	Montclair	510-339-4565
Montclair Better Homes	Martha Shin	
\$1,294,900	264 Sheridan Rd.	6BD/4.5BA
Sun 2-4:30	Upper Rockridge	510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos	
\$1,475,000	6120 Harbord Drive	3BD/4BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Piedmont	510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Michelle Winchester	
\$1,749,000	6689 Skyline Blvd	3+BD/3.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	Montclair	531-7000 x251
Wells & Bennett Realtors	Mary Neuberger	
\$1,750,000	7045 Skyline Blvd	3BD/3BA
Sun 2-5pm	Montclair	510-524-3510
New Spring Real Estate	Yehuda Ben-David	
\$1,850,000	6343 Skyline Blvd.	4BD/3.5BA
Sun. 2-4		510-486-1495
Coldwell Banker	Kim & Barbara Marienthal	

Piedmont

\$650,000	50 Entrada Ave.	2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4		510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Nancy Dickey & Becky Anderson	

Piedmont

\$849,000	157 Holly Place	3BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Mavis Delacroix	
\$975,000	333 Scenic Ave.	2+BD/3BA
Sun 2-5		510-339-4700
Coldwell Banker	Haidieh Chew	
\$1,975,000	12 Sharon Avenue	3+BD/4BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Elizabeth Dickson	
\$2,600,000	56 Lakeview Avenue	5BD/4BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
The Grubb Co.	Mindy Scott	

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 Signe Nelson 510-748-1103



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REALTORS

Misconceptions Regarding Sellers' TDS

If you've written offers or listed your property recently, you're undoubtedly familiar with what Realtors® refer to as the 'TDS' or Transfer Disclosure Statement. Of all the questions I receive, most involve this statutorily-defined form. Are some sellers exempt? Or, what if there are errors later discovered by the buyer in the TDS?

Since 1987 sellers of real property containing one-to-four residential units have been required to furnish prospective buyers with a completed TDS. Certain types of transfer are exempted by Civil Code which includes sales by court order such as probate sales and transfers between co-owners including a spouse or to a child. For Sale By Owners (FSBO's) are not exempt from this disclosure. Always seek a licensed Realtor's opinion on this first.

Sellers are required to disclose

all known material facts affecting the value or desirability of the property to the buyer. What about "as-is" sales? Unless the seller meets one of the exceptions, he/she must provide a completed TDS to the buyer and disclose all known material defects? What if the seller fails to disclose a material defect to the buyer? So long as the omission was not personally known to the seller, the seller will probably not be liable.

Occasionally a seller will innocently fail to disclose a known material defect. In this case, it's the seller's responsibility to inform the buyer during escrow and in writing, amending the TDS. At this point, the buyer has a three day right of rescission once amendment is delivered in person. A Realtor's expertise before and after escrow cannot be understated since the most frequent cause of lawsuits stems from improperly completed TDS disclosures.

Michael Studebaker
 Broker/Manager, Realtor®
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\$540,000

Laurel/Dimond

2004 Median Sales Price
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Neighborhood Focus: Oakland's Laurel/Dimond

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Selling your Laurel/Dimond Home?

Jenny is working with a family who is pre-approved to buy a home right now. They are considering a two bedroom home or a duplex in various East Bay neighborhoods including Oakland's Laurel district. A home needing some TLC is acceptable as they are up to the challenge of bringing a period home back to it's original glory. Other specifics include a detached garage and a yard that is conducive for a garden. If your home fits this description, or you know of one that might be for sale soon, please contact Guinevere (Jenny) Holder at (510) 748-1194.

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Berkeley guts out triple-OT win over Pinole Valley

Yellow Jackets prevail
even after their best player
jacks out in fourth quarter

By Dave Carpenter
STAFF WRITER
Berkeley High School boys basketball coach Mike Gragnani wanted to challenge his team to see how it would respond without their star player Dior Lowhorn. He just didn't expect it to happen this way.

Lowhorn fouled out with 40 seconds left in the fourth quarter and the score tied 57-57 Friday night against host Pinole Valley.

PREP BOYS ROUNDUP

The Yellow Jackets responded in a big way by escaping with a 78-77 victory in triple overtime. Kellan Patterson scored what proved to be the deciding bucket with a 3-pointer with 22 seconds remaining in the third extra period to give Berkeley a 78-75 advantage.

Mike Holmes' layup pulled Pinole Valley to within a point, but there was only 1.8 seconds left, just enough time for Berkeley

to complete an inbound pass and let the clock run out.

"Since we didn't have Dior, I told the guys, 'Take shots,'" Gragnani said. "K.P. took that shot like he knew he was going to make it."

Patterson finished with 15 points.

"I was just playing my game," Patterson said. "It came time for me to step it up and make big shots. Coach was letting me know I had to do something."

The Spartans (13-2, 3-1) had a game plan to shut down

Lowhorn with a box-and-one defense. It worked, as Lowhorn scored just 12 points before fouling out. He had just two points entering the fourth quarter. The problem for Pinole Valley was, Berkeley proved it could play without its star.

Robert Mitchel led the Yellow Jackets with 28 points, including five 3-pointers.

For Pinole Valley, Holmes led all scorers by putting in 29 points, John Bryant chipped in with 20, and Ron Manigault added 18.

Berkeley led briefly 4-2 early in the first quarter but did not

lead again until going up 51-50 with 3:36 left in the fourth on a basket by Mitchel.

Berkeley 82, De Anza 52: The host Yellow Jackets (14-3, 5-0 ACCAL) outscored the Dons (10-6, 3-2) in every quarter Tuesday. Lowhorn scored a game-high 30 points in the win.

St. Mary's 77, John Swett 48: The host Panthers held a 44-24 halftime advantage in Friday's Bay Shore Athletic League win. Steven Yaris paced the Panthers with 20 points.

St. Mary's 71, Albany 45: The Panthers (17-1, 5-0 Bay Shore Athletic League) outscored the

Cougars (4-16, 2-4) 25-8 in the second quarter on their way to victory Tuesday.

The Panthers' Larry Gurganious scored a game-high 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Jeremy Jennings paced the Cougars with 14 points.

St. Joseph 58, Albany 37: The visiting Pilots took an 18-3 lead in the first quarter on the way to a win Friday. Josh Coleman paced Albany with eight points.

BOYS SOCCER
Berkeley 5, El Cerrito 1: Erick Strauss scored two goals to

See BOYS, Page 2

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Spartans are off to hot start

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER
THE PINOLE VALLEY High School girls basketball team appeared to have the momentum of its game against Berkeley on Friday evening into halftime, as Yellow Jackets guard Danesha Wright hit a buzzer-beating 3-point shot to put her team up by one point.

But the Spartans grabbed the momentum right back with a 14-9 run to start the third quarter. They proceeded to defeat the Yellow Jackets 68-61, marking the first time in 19 years that the Pinole Valley girls basketball team had won at Berkeley, said Pinole Valley coach Dan O'Shea.

"They hit the shot before time. A lot of teams would be on the tank from there. We were out strong in the second half," O'Shea said. "I've had players who were pretty good who went into Berkeley and weren't mentally tough. This was probably my most mentally tough team."

Pinole Valley also outscored Berkeley 33-25 in the second half, an important statistic for the Spartans.

"That's how they usually get in their presence inside. Our goal was to limit them to 20 points," O'Shea said.

O'Shea was also pleased with his

See ACCAL, Page 2

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Appeal turned down

By Dave Carpenter
STAFF WRITER
THE HOLY NAMES HIGH School girls basketball team was scheduled to play Kennedy last Friday in a Bay Shore Athletic League contest. The problem was, Kennedy dropped its varsity basketball program more than a year ago.

Holy Names was forced to play a game and will have to settle for a nonleague game to fill that void and advantage of the 26 game allowed per season.

The Monarchs aren't the only team in the same predicament. Albany, John Swett, Salema and St. Patrick had two scheduled league games canceled by Kennedy, meaning teams have to find two replacement games if they are to fill all their allotted

See BSAL, Page 2



BERKELEY HIGH'S Jazmine Perkins comes down with a rebound in an ACCAL game against Pinole Valley.

Jackets beat Auburn team

■ Berkeley survives furious comeback to win at the Velocity Sports Performance Shootout

By Curtis Pashelka
STAFF WRITER

The Berkeley High School girls basketball team withstood a furious second half comeback by Forest Lake Christian-Auburn and pulled away in the final minutes to earn a 61-49 win Saturday at the Velocity Sports Performance Shootout at Acalanes High School.

Berkeley (8-7) dominated the early going, taking a 19-4 lead after the first quarter and a 33-

14 advantage at halftime. Center Alexandria Mitchell led the way with 13 points and guard Danesha Wright added eight.

But Forest Lake Christian (12-5) chipped away at the lead in the second half, hitting three 3-pointers in the third quarter to help cut the Yellow Jackets' advantage to eight points.

The Falcons then went on a 9-0 run to start the fourth quarter, capped by a 3-point play from guard Brittany Allen, to take a 43-42 lead with 6:23 to go in the game. They sank seven 3-pointers in the second half.

But Berkeley regained its composure and outscored Forest Lake Christian 19-9 the rest of the way. Wright had eight points in the fourth quarter to finish

with 18. Berkeley was less than 24 hours removed from an emotional 68-61 loss to Pinole Valley. Before that, the Yellow Jackets had won three straight Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League games, blowing out Richmond, Encinal and Alameda.

Forest Lake Christian and Berkeley played each other last year, with the Falcons earning a one-point win.

Pinole Valley 68, Berkeley 61: A couple of maddening streaks were broken in the Spartans' historic victory over the host Yellow Jackets on Friday.

Pinole Valley coach Dan O'Shea said it was the first time in 19 years that the Pinole Valley girls had won at Berkeley. Also,

it was the first time since 1997 that Berkeley's girls squad had lost to an Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League opponent, according to Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura.

Pinole Valley's Jasmine Smith scored a career-high 27 points, including 12 in the key third quarter in which the Spartans outscored the Yellow Jackets 22-13 to wipe away a one-point deficit at halftime. Wright, who had a team-high 25 points, hit a 3-pointer at the first-half buzzer. But Pinole Valley (14-1, 4-0 ACCAL) went on a 14-5 run to start the second half and never trailed after that.

Berkeley was able to contain

See GIRLS, Page 2

ON DECK

Prep boys basketball

■ Salesian vs. St. Mary's, at Albany High School, 8 p.m. tonight — The first Bay Shore Athletic League showdown between two of the top teams in the Bay Area.

■ Berkeley at El Cerrito, 4 p.m. Tuesday — The Yellow Jackets are undefeated in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at press time, but the Gauchos are only two games in back of league-leading Berkeley with a 3-2 ACCAL mark.

Prep girls basketball

■ El Cerrito at Berkeley, 7 p.m. Tuesday — With Pinole Valley's sweep of the Yellow Jackets and Gauchos in the past week, this

game is very important for both Berkeley and El Cerrito.

Prep boys soccer

■ Berkeley at Richmond, 6 p.m. Tuesday — The Yellow Jackets need to win this game in order to climb back into the ACCAL title race.

■ Salesian at St. Mary's, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday — The Panthers also could use a win against the Chieftains, who are undefeated in the BSAL at press time, to jump closer to the league leader.

Prep girls soccer

■ Albany at Piedmont, 3:30 p.m. today — The Cougars will try to follow St. Mary's lead and stun the

Highlanders. On Jan. 19, the Panthers halted Piedmont's 13-game BSAL winning streak with a 1-1 tie.

■ Piedmont at Berkeley, 11 a.m. Saturday — An intriguing matchup between the powers of the BSAL and ACCAL.

■ El Cerrito at Alameda, 5:15 p.m. Thursday — The Gauchos, who played league-leading Berkeley tough on Tuesday, will attempt to defeat the Hornets, who are in second place in the ACCAL at press time.

Stars of the week

■ Scottley Meinke, Berkeley girls soccer — Meinke had 15 saves in the Panthers' 1-1 tie with Piedmont, which was the first time St. Mary's

had not lost to Piedmont in BSAL varsity girls soccer competition, according to St. Mary's coach Jim Brosnar. Meinke also had eight saves in a 1-1 tie with Albany.

■ Emma Kemp, Albany girls soccer — Kemp scored her team's lone goal in a 1-1 tie with St. Mary's and also had a hat trick in Albany's 3-1 win over St. Patrick.

■ Dea Wallach, Berkeley girls soccer — Wallach scored the winning goal in the Yellow Jackets' 1-0 victory over El Cerrito and also had two goals in Berkeley's 11-0 win over De Anza.

■ Alicen Buder, El Cerrito girls soccer — Buder had a goal and an assist in the Gauchos' 2-0 victory over Pinole Valley.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Foster sinks Gauchos

■ He scores nine of his 14 points in the fourth quarter to lift De Anza over El Cerrito

By Ben Enos
CORRESPONDENT

For three quarters last Friday, the El Cerrito High School boys basketball team played tremendous defense on De Anza leading scorer Darius Foster. But all it took was one quarter for Foster to change the outcome of the entire game.

Entering the fourth quarter with only five points, Foster took over in the fourth, scoring nine points in the period to lead the Dons to a 59-47 victory over the visiting Gauchos.

El Cerrito (7-7, 3-1 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League) played most of the first half in a mixture of zone and press defenses, trying to limit the number of times Foster was able to get the ball in the low post.

The strategy meant Foster's teammates had to keep the Dons close. The bulk of the load was picked up by Antione Henderson and Michael Johnson as they combined for 32 points in the game.

While the defensive strategies the Gauchos employed seemed to work for most of the night, after the game El Cerrito coach Antonio Scott focused more on what could be fixed in the future rather than what worked.

"We tried to concentrate on our game rather than just Foster," he said. "He's a great player, but he didn't have his best night tonight. We just didn't play well enough as a team."

Foster elevated his game both literally and figuratively in the final quarter.

As De Anza (10-4, 3-1) clung to a two point lead with 4:20 remaining, the Dons came out of a timeout looking to find Foster on the baseline.

After some good perimeter passing, Foster found space in the key and threw down a tomahawk dunk that sent the partisan crowd into hysterics. He would follow that with a layup on De Anza's ensuing possession to give the Dons a six-point lead they would never relinquish.

The game did not, however, hinge exclusively on Foster's heroics. Johnson scored 10 points in the final period to complement Foster.

Henderson also played a big role in keeping the Dons close, as he scored 10 of his 14 points in the first half.

The Gauchos showed great intensity and hustle in coming up just short against the Dons. Junior swingman Darnell Quinney led the Gauchos attack with eight points, seven rebounds, and seven steals.

Milton Brown had 10 points, all in the second half, to pace the Gauchos scorers.

Pinole Valley 67, El Cerrito 52: The Gauchos (7-8, 3-2 ACCAL) fell behind 35-24 at halftime Tuesday and were unable to recover against the host Spartans (14-2, 4-1). El Cerrito had three players who scored in double figures: Kenny Leaks (15 points), Damon Warren (13) and Brown (10).

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Newark Memorial	16-3	Holds former No. 1 DLS to its lowest output in six years in 49-30 win
2.	Berkeley	12-3	Yellow Jackets score over 70 points twice in first three ACCAL games
3.	De La Salle	12-3	Outside shooting woes lead to nightmarish effort against Newark Memorial
4.	Salesian	13-2	Chieftains hold St. Patrick to 19 total points on Jan. 18.
5.	St. Mary's	15-1	Shows poise in coming back, and then holding off pesky Skyline at MLK
6.	Pinole Valley	13-1	Spartans averaged 73 points in first three ACCAL games.
7.	Campolindo	13-3	Averages last season's two losses to Acalanes with a 53-40 win
8.	San Leandro	14-2	Takes the early driver's seat in HAAL by topping Bishop O'Dowd 73-60
9.	Monte Vista	15-3	Holds first five EBAL opponents to an average of 49 points a game
10.	Skyline	12-6	Titans upset McClymonds to become last unbeaten team in OAL play

Others receiving votes: Alhambra (14-2), McClymonds (13-6), San Ramon Valley (14-3). The prep boys basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is compiled by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Jan. 19.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Piedmont	14-1	The Highlanders win their first four BSAL games by an average of 47 points
2.	Oakland Tech	9-5	Bulldogs bounce back with wins over Castlemont, Carondelet
3.	Carondelet	10-3	Cougars don't allow more than six points in a quarter against Antioch
4.	Moreau Catholic	14-1	Mariners move winning streak to 13 games
5.	El Cerrito	13-1	Gauchos' Emerson averages 21.7 points in first three ACCAL games this season
6.	Pinole Valley	13-1	Spartans allow Hercules a total of eight points in second and third quarters on Jan. 18
7.	Castlemont	16-2	Knights struggle in 67-40 loss to Oakland Tech
7.	Deer Valley	11-2	Simmmons has double-double in win over Clayton Valley
9.	Miramonte	12-2	Matadors allow only 38 points a game in first four DFAL contests
10.	St. Mary's	8-6	Panthers overwhelm Alhambra

Other receiving votes: Vallejo (11-3). The prep girls basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is voted on by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Jan. 19.

Girls

FROM PAGE 1

Pinole Valley's Jontelle Smith's scoring. The St. Mary's College-bound Smith had no field goals and 11 total points. But Jontelle's sister Jasmine connected on five 3-pointers in the game, and teammate Marnique Arnold had a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Berkeley 65, De Anza 20: The visiting Yellow Jackets (9-7, 4-1 ACCAL) bolted out to a 25-5 lead in the first quarter and didn't look back Tuesday. Jennifer Gross and Jazmine Perkins each had 11 points to pace Berkeley. De Anza fell to 7-10 overall and 1-4 in ACCAL action.

El Cerrito 53, Ursuline-Santa Rosa 49: Myleka Emerson made all three of her 3-point attempts, and it was the third that gave the Gauchos just a big enough cushion to hold off a pesky Bears squad down the stretch Saturday in the Velocity Sports Performance Shootout at Acalanes.

With El Cerrito (15-1) clinging to a 46-45 advantage late in the fourth quarter, Emerson buried her final 3-pointer from the right wing to push the Gauchos lead to 49-45 with 2:01 remaining.

Twice Ursuline (8-8) would cut the lead to two points, but would never come any closer.

The Bears' Ashley Kirk converted a layin that cut the score to 51-49 with 29 seconds remaining. Ursuline then got a break when it forced El Cerrito into a turnover with 17 ticks left on the clock. However, following a timeout, Ursuline made an errant pass out of bounds immediately following the inbound pass.

The Gauchos regained control and after two inbound passes were deflected away, finally broke the Ursuline press. Shameika Davis had a game-clinching layup with two seconds left.

Emerson finished with a game-high 27 points and was joined in double figures by teammate Shonetta Crain-Williams, who posted a double-double of 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Pinole Valley 58, El Cerrito 47: Anyone who figured that Pinole Valley was due for a let-down after Friday's historic win over Berkeley would have been surprised to see what happened Tuesday.

The Spartans never trailed in their game against host El Cerrito, jumping to a 10-point lead in the first 2½ minutes to help post an impressive win in an ACCAL showdown.

The victory gives Pinole Valley sole possession of first place in the ACCAL, one game ahead of the Gauchos and Yellow Jackets.

Jontelle Smith and Deanna Mayfield led the Spartans (15-1, 5-0 ACCAL) in the early going, combining for 31 points in the first half to help give their team a 37-26 lead at the break.

El Cerrito (15-2, 4-1) also trailed by 11 points midway through the fourth quarter but went on a 7-0 run to cut Pinole Valley's lead to 51-47 with just over three minutes to go.

But the Gauchos, who were plagued by turnovers for most of the game, committed three costly ones in the last three minutes.

One eventually led to a back-breaking 3-pointer by Pinole Valley's Jasmine Smith, which pushed her team's lead back up to eight points with 2:30 to go.

El Cerrito, which had its 14-game winning streak snapped, had 20 turnovers during the contest.

"It's the little things," said El Cerrito coach Ron Williams, whose team's last loss came on Dec. 7 to St. Patrick. "We just have to become more mature and learn how to mentally prepare for these kinds of games. We're a young team."

Jontelle Smith finished with a game-high 26 points, including 19 in the first half.

Crain-Williams led the Gauchos with 16 points and 15 rebounds. Emerson had 15 points.

El Cerrito 51, De Anza 34: The Gauchos' Turquoise Wilder had a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds as the host Gauchos defeated the Dons on Friday. Emerson paced the Gauchos with 13 points.

Oakland Tech 77, St. Mary's 60: Devane Hampton scored 22 points and 10 other Bulldogs marked the scoring column as Oakland Tech (11-5) came from behind to beat the Panthers on Saturday at the Velocity Sports Performance Shootout at Acalanes.

"(When it comes to shooting) nobody on this team has a red light," Oakland Tech coach Pico Wilburn said.

That was certainly the case for the Oakland Tech bench, which outscored the starters 39-38 and registered all nine of the team's 3-point shots. Junior guard Danasia Taylor had the three biggest 3-pointers of the game, hitting all of them inside of a 2½-minute span to put the game on ice late in the fourth quarter.

Taylor's last 3-pointer put the Bulldogs up 75-58 with 1:07 left in the game.

After scoring just four points in the first half, Hampton posted 12 points in the third quarter and helped lead a 15-0 run to open the second half. The run would put the Bulldogs ahead 37-26, and the Panthers would never get closer than three points the rest of the game.

St. Mary's (9-7) was led by Christina Johnson's 21 points and eight rebounds. Panthers standout Shantrell Snead went scoreless in the first half but finished with 12 points and seven rebounds.

St. Mary's 79, John Swett 20: The visiting Panthers took a 23-9 first-quarter lead and didn't allow John Swett more than nine points in a quarter Friday in a Bay Shore Athletic League game. Cristina Thomas and Snead both scored 17 points to lead St. Mary's.

St. Mary's 54, Albany 49: The

visiting Panthers (11-7, 5-1 BSAL) held off a charge by the Cougars (11-5, 3-2) in Tuesday's BSAL matchup. St. Mary's had a 46-35 lead after three quarters, but Albany outscored the Panthers 14-8 in the fourth quarter. Thomas and Johnson both scored 16 points for the Panthers, and Snead added 14 points. Jade Smith-Williams and Ceciley Johnson both had 14 points for Albany.

Albany 76, St. Joseph Notre Dame 22: The Cougars took a 17-9 first quarter lead and didn't allow the Pilots more than nine points in any quarter Friday. Albany's Martinique Lewis had a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Rachel Goldman led five Cougars in double figures with 18 points.

GIRLS SSCOR

St. Mary's 1, Piedmont 1: Piedmont had been unbeaten or untied in 13 straight BSAL games dating back to Feb. 4, 2004.

That streak came to an end on Jan. 19, as visiting St. Mary's made its one goal stand up.

The Highlanders (11-0-3, 10-0-1 BSAL) scored first in the 53rd minute on a goal by Taylor Lee. But St. Mary's tied the score 12 minutes later on a goal by Michelle Mason, who dribbled past three defenders to get the shot off. Scottie Meinke had 15 saves for the Panthers.

Albany 1, St. Mary's 1: The Cougars' Emma Kemp scored first, but St. Mary's Joan Lubin tied the score at the 63-minute mark Friday in Albany. Meinke had eight saves for St. Mary's (5-2-3, 5-1-3 BSAL) and Shireen Javandel had five saves for Albany (7-5-2, 7-3-2).

Albany 3, St. Patrick 1: Kemp had a hat trick for host Albany in its win on Jan. 19. She scored two goals in an eight-minute span of the first half, and her final goal was at the 52-minute mark. Javandel had eight saves for Albany.

Berkeley 1, El Cerrito 0: Dea Wallach's goal at the 47-minute mark gave the visiting Yellow Jackets (12-4-1, 8-0-1 ACCAL) a narrow victory over the Gauchos (10-7-1, 5-3-1) on Tuesday. Berkeley goalkeepers Laura Dale and Kristina Hall combined for the shutout. Jenya Jawad had four saves for the Gauchos.

El Cerrito 2, Pinole Valley 0: Francesca Petroni and Alicen Buder tallied goals for the Gauchos on Jan. 20 in a win over the visiting Spartans. Buder also assisted Petroni's goal, which gave El Cerrito a 1-0 lead at the 13-minute mark. Jawad had four saves for the Gauchos.

Berkeley 11, De Anza 0: Haley Geller had four goals and Hall had a hat trick to pace the host Yellow Jackets in scoring on Jan. 20.

Staff writers Chace Bryson and Phil Jensen contributed to this roundup.

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

team's decision-making.

"What I liked most was when the opportunity was there, we attacked. When we had to set up, we did that well too. The girls made great on-court decisions," O'Shea said.

Pinole Valley increased its winning streak to five games when it defeated El Cerrito 58-47 on Tuesday. The Spartans stopped the Gauchos' impressive winning streak at 14 games. The Spartans are now alone on top of the ACCAL with a 5-0 league record.

The Spartans showed versatility on offense in the past two games.

St. Mary's College-bound Jontelle Smith had no field goals against Berkeley but was 11-for-12 from the free-throw

line, including 7-for-8 in the fourth quarter. The Pinole Valley senior guard also had six assists. Jasmine Smith scored a career-high 27 points, including five 3-pointers, for the Spartans against Berkeley, and teammate Marnique Arnold had 10 points.

On Tuesday, Jontelle Smith scored a game-high 26 points and three steals, and teammate Deanna Mayfield had 15 points.

BEHIND SCHEDULE: The Hercules boys soccer team was out and ready for its soccer match at Encinal on Jan. 20. There was only one problem: the bus showed up and hour-and-a-half late.

"We were waiting for bus and the bus company had a misunderstanding and they did not show up till 3:30 p.m.," said Hercules coach Fernando Mendoza. "Encinal" doesn't have any lights and by the time we

got over there it would be around 4:15 p.m."

The game is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. Saturday at Encinal.

The mishap was blamed on the Titans, who won't play the game without their best players, Ventura Mendoza, Julian Godin and Deanna Mayfield. Mendoza was in Washington, D.C., and Godin's calf injury.

Ventura Mendoza spent the week in Washington, D.C., part of a school program experiencing the inauguration rites.

"We were there for the actual inauguration, we saw the parade," Mendoza said. "It was a great experience. We were about 500 yards away from the president."

Staff writer Robert Jordan contributed to this notebook.

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

North Coast Section commissioner Tom Ehrhorn.

Last week, Ehrhorn upheld the BSAL's decision, adding that teams scheduled to play Kennedy could opt to play against other BSAL opponents and count those games as non-league contests.

Eagles grounded

Kennedy had only one player with significant varsity experience, but that player became academically ineligible. The remainder of the roster was filled with freshmen and sophomores. Kennedy athletic director Harry Campbell dropped the varsity program, and the team has functioned as a junior varsity team since mid-December.

The Eagles had lost their first five games, including a forfeit and several blowouts.

Debating the issue

Flannery, along with other

coaches in the BSAL, believes Kennedy should have been forced to forfeit the rest of the season.

"As an athletic director, I support what the section said, but I think it's unfair to the other teams," Flannery said.

Ehrhorn disagreed. "They can't call them forfeits," he said. "If it happens the day of the event, it doesn't give them time to make other arrangements. This was done weeks in advance."

Flannery's argument is that it's unfair to the teams scheduled to play Kennedy because of how difficult it is to schedule games this deep into the season.

Even though they have been allowed to fill the vacancy (or vacancies) with league opponents and treat them as non-league games, Flannery said it makes it more difficult for teams fighting for BSAL and North Coast Section playoff berths.

For example, Albany, John Swett, Salesian and St. Patrick may have to play league pow-

ers Piedmont and/or St. instead of Kennedy.

Instead of receiving the feat victories, they could be taking losses and affecting their playoff hopes.

"My thought process doesn't matter if Kennedy the loss," Flannery said. "Kennedy is not going to the North Coast Section anyway."

An easy decision

Ehrhorn said the decision was not difficult to make. The section has dealt with similar circumstances in the past, so a precedent had already been set.

Last spring, Emery baseball and softball were not fielded a full season because of no forfeits were granted the rest of the Bay Counties League.

"We understand the situation," Ehrhorn said. "It is, to get a forfeit for the fair to the other (schools) can't field a team."

Boys

FROM PAGE 1

pace the host Yellow Jackets (4-6-4, 4-3-2 ACCAL at press time) in their win over the Gauchos (4-9-2, 1-6-2 at press time) on Tuesday.

El Cerrito 2, Pinole Valley 2: Goals by Nolan Kelly and David Ball helped the Gauchos tie the Spartans on Jan. 20.

De Anza 3, Berkeley 0: The Dons scored all three of their goals in the second half against the Yellow Jackets on Jan. 20.

St. Mary's 2, Albany 0: Rob Riccardi scored at the 6-minute mark, and Theo Addo-Otto had the game's other score at the 77-minute mark to lift the host Panthers (7-4-3, 7-2-1 BSAL at press time) to victory over the Cougars (5-8-2, 4-6-2 at press time) on Friday. David Pezzola had six saves for the Panthers.

Albany 1, St. Patrick 0: Christopher Lewis scored the

game-winning goal at the 52-minute mark for the visiting Cougars on Jan. 19.

WRESTLING

Albany Invitational: The host Cougars placed fifth as a team with 116.5 points on Saturday. Terra Linda-San Rafael won the tournament with 198 points.

The Cougars' Levi Porras defeated Oakland Tech's Isaiah Cain by disqualification in the 191-pound championship match. Albany teammate Taylor finished second in the 110 division.

Albany 46, John Swett 34: Caleb Kahn (142-pound) Porras (217) and Antioch (277) all pinned the nents in a BSAL dual on Jan. 20. The Cougars fell to 3-0 in league action in victory. John Swett fell in league action.

Staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this roundup.

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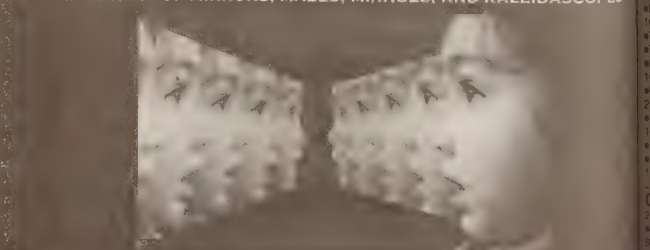
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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Marta Barber, Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Steven Lee and Carrie Rickey, Knight Ridder; Brad Kava, Glenn Lovell and Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire and Ben Nuckols, Associated Press; Anita Salas, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jami Bernard and Jack Mathews, New York Daily News; Phoebe Flowers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; Evan Henken, Valerie Kulkenski, Fred Shustler, Bob Strauss and Glenn Shustler, Los Angeles Daily News; Carolina Chocano, Kevin Crust, Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Tom Vaarstad, Tom Sime, Chris Vognar and Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Jay Boyar and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Bialake, Sacramento Bee; Ty Burr, Catherine Foster and Wesley Morris, Boston Globe; Robert Dennerstein, Rocky Mountain News; Ann Hornaday, Stephen Hunter, Michael O'Sullivan and Desmond Thomson, Washington Post.

"APPLESEED": At the center of this Japanese animated sci-fi spectacle is a conflict between people and "bionoids," a strange race of beings, half-human and half-robot. Starting out in a bombed-out urban area reeling in the aftermath of a global war, it quickly moves to the radiant utopian city of Olympus, where bionoids and humans live in a harmony that turns out to be superficial. — A.O. Scott. (R: some violence.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. C

"ARE WE THERE YET?": A rip-off of "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," Affable Nick (Ice Cube), hoping to score points with beautiful single mother Suzanne (Mia Long), transports her children from Portland to Vancouver. The children (Aleiha Allen and Philip Holden) are smug little snobs, and they blurt, belittle and abuse poor Nick mercilessly. In contrast, John Candy starts to look like great company for a road trip. The emotional connection between Nick and the kids, when it finally arrives, is forced and false. — M. Pols. (PG: for language and rude humor.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. F

"THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON": A bleak but beautifully acted movie about one of history's real losers, Sam Byck, who hatched a failed plot to kill Richard Nixon after becoming disgusted with

OPENING TODAY

"ALIENS OF THE DEEP" (G)
An IMAX documentary about the Mid-Ocean Ridge, directed by James Cameron and featuring NASA scientists.

"ALONE IN THE DARK" (R)
In this adaptation of a video game, a detective of the paranormal (Christian Slater) unravels a mystery with help from an archaeologist (Tara Reid).

"THE CHORUS (LES CHORISTES)" (PG-13)
In post-World War II France, a teacher introduces a group of troubled young boys to the joys of music. (France's entry for the Academy Awards.)

the dishonesty of our culture. Sean Penn is masterful as a train wreck waiting to happen, but you come away feeling that director Niels Mueller may be trying to make an Everyman case for Byck that isn't really genuine; he seems more mentally ill than mad. With Naomi Watts as the wife who has forsaken him. — M. Pols. (R: language and scene of graphic violence.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B-

"ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13": Re-make of a 1976 action thriller. One snowy New Year's Eve, a handful of cops in an antiquated precinct find themselves under siege by dozens of masked gunmen. To survive, the sergeant in charge (Ethan Hawke) forms an uneasy alliance with the prisoners, including a crime boss (Laurence Fishburne). The movie delights in bloodshed and invites us to share in that joy by presenting characters so irritating, we want them dead. With Maria Bello and John Leguizamo. — M. Pols. (R: strong violence and language throughout, some drug content.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. C-

"THE AVIATOR": Martin Scorsese's thoroughly absorbing look at the life of Howard Hughes, millionaire, recluse and infamous eccentric. The story is focused on Hughes' younger, triumphant years, with Leonardo DiCaprio doing a fine job bringing him to life. The film stays safely sympathetic to Hughes, tics and all, which holds it back from greatness, but it is sumptuous, confident and well-acted, exactly what you want in a holiday movie. And Cate Blanchett's performance as Katharine Hepburn is not to be missed. — M. Pols. (PG-13:

"HIDE AND SEEK" (R)
Dakota Fanning plays a child whose "imaginary friend" gets a little out of hand, and Robert De Niro plays her dad in this thriller.

"A LOVE SONG FOR BOBBY LONG" (R)
A young woman (Scarlett Johansson) returns to her hometown along with the death of her estranged mother and moves in with her mother's best friends (John Travolta, Gabriel Macht), a pair of alcoholic writers.

"NOTRE MUSIQUE" (NR)
A new film from director Jean-Luc Godard, about the three kingdoms: Paradise, hell and purgatory.

thematic elements, sexual content, nudity, language and a crash scene.) 2 hours, 49 minutes. B+

"BAD EDUCATION": Just in the time for the holidays, a Pedro Almodovar film about a chain of tragic events begun by a priest sexually abusing a young boy at a Catholic school. This is Almodovar's venture into the territory of film noir, and he brings both his naughty Spanish sensibility to it and his amazing ability to create a story with multiple layers. The boy of Latin America, Gael Garcia Bernal, plays no less than three roles, and there's a movie within a movie within a movie. It sounds confusing, but Almodovar never lets us founder. — M. Pols. (NC-17: contains a scene of explicit sexual content.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. A-

"BEING JULIA": Based on Somerset Maugham's novella "Theatre," this movie sets out to prove there's no people like show people. The story is set in London in 1938, when aging stage actress Julia Lambert (Annette Bening) enacts her revenge against everyone who has brought her low: Tom, her loutish lover; Michael, her philandering husband, who is sleeping with an ingenue hungry for a part; and the ingenue who is using both of Julia's men to get to Julia. — B. Newman. (R: some sexuality.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C+

"BEAUTIFUL BOXER": A deeply affecting journey traces the life of the son of itinerant farmworkers. The film, based on a true story, tells of a Thai fighter who competes in full makeup and uses his winnings to pay for a sex-change operation. Nonong (a thoroughly persuasive Anong

Suwan), who struggles with his gender identity, has an awesome kickboxing technique and ruthless winner's instincts. — K. Thomas. (Not rated: in Thai with subtitles.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B

"BEYOND THE SEA": You won't believe Kevin Spacey for a minute as the late, sort of great hep-cat singer Bobby Darin in this flip, campy biopic. The actor is too old to play Darin, especially when paired with a very young Kate Bosworth as Sandra Dee. Some decent production numbers, but Darin remains beyond Spacey's grasp. — R. Moore. (PG-13: strong language, a scene of sensuality.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. C

"CLOSER": This riveting, challenging relationship movie by director Mike Nichols ("Garnet") does us no favors. It's full of selfish, ignoble behavior with no explanation of why. Half the fun comes from power-house performers — Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman, Clive Owen — giving potent performances.

— M. Pols. (R: sequences of graphic sexual dialogue, nudity/sexuality, language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B+

"COACH CARTER": Based on the real-life story of former Richmond High School basketball coach Ken Carter, whose decision in 1999 to bench his winning team because of bad grades created a firestorm of publicity. Samuel L. Jackson lends his considerable cool to the character and provides plenty of inspiration. The story may be typical of formulaic sports movies, but it's also believably gritty, occasionally amusing and ultimately touching. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, sexual content, language, teen partying and some drug material.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. B

"ELEKTRA": Jennifer Garner plays Elektra, last seen in "Daredevil," whose death in that movie has been resolved by casting Terence Stamp as a blind mystic capable of rolling back time. She's a contract killer now, with no superpowers other than dead-on knife-throwing skills and the ability to wear red leather without looking silly. Like a lot of comic-book mythology, the story's influences seem slightly biblical, centering around the search for a chosen child — and attempts by an evil crime syndicate to steal the child, or destroy it. — B. Newman. (PG-13: action violence, some profanity.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B

"FAT ALBERT": Not much in this fea-

ture, based on the old TV show, that kids will want, beginning with the all-but-forgotten characters and the Many Important Lessons they impart. Not to mention the bizarre "Schindler's List" moment at the end. — C. Hewitt. (PG: momentary language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. D

"FINDING NEVERLAND": Supposedly about how Scottish playwright J.M. Barrie came to write his beloved 1904 play "Peter Pan." But don't expect realism from this fanciful film starring Johnny Depp as Barrie and Kate Winslet as the widow, with three unruly sons, who supposedly inspired the story. — M. Pols. (PG: mild thematic elements, brief language.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B

"HOTEL RWANDA": A story so powerful and interesting that flaws in the storytelling don't much matter. Don Cheddie stars as real-life hero Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager in the capital of Rwanda. He's made a career out of being obsequious, but when ethnic violence breaks out and Hutus begin massacring Tutsis, he must make a stand. Through quiet intelligence and his own willingness to be humble, he saves nearly 1,200 people. An Oscar-worthy performance by Cheddie. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, disturbing images and brief, strong language.) 2 hours, 1 minute. A-

"HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS": Set in the twilight of the Tang Dynasty, this feast of blood and passion is a tribute to the sword and martial-arts epics of the past. Zhang Zhi plays Mei, a blind courtesan who turns out to be a member of a shadowy squad of assassins waging a guerrilla insurgency against the corrupt government. She is pursued by two government deputies, and the chase turns into a love triangle. Realism is as irrelevant here as it would be in an Italian opera. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: violence, mild sexuality; in Mandarin with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B

"THE INCREDIBLES": Blessed with that reliable Pixar blend of intelligence, wit and beautiful craftsmanship, a tale of superheroes forced into retirement but still possessed of an urge to save the world. Our hero Mr. Incredible (voiced by Craig T. Nelson) is led into a trap by an old enemy and must be saved by his wife, the former Elastigirl (Holly Hunter, almost as delightful as Ellen DeGeneres in "Finding Nemo") and his offspring. Stylistically enticing and good fun, but there may be too much violence for very young children. — M. Pols. (PG: action violence.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. B+

"IN GOOD COMPANY": A drama/comedy from director Paul Weitz about an upstart yuppie (Toph Grace) supplanting an experienced 53-year-old (Dennis Quaid) after a corporate merger. Weitz tends to fall back on cheap humor and sitcom situations (the subplot involving Grace's character dating Quaid's daughter, played by Scarlett Johansson, is unnecessary). But he's onto something with his portrayal of the corporate world as both cutthroat and bumbling. Grace is particularly endearing. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual content, drug references.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B

"KINSEY": While this biopic does cover the basic points of famous '40s and '50s sex researcher Alfred Kinsey's life, its true focus is his work and drive to shine a light into the dark corners of American sexuality. With Laura Linney as his spunky wife, Mac. Directed by Bill Condon ("Gods and Monsters"). — M. Pols. (R: pervasive sexual content, including graphic images and descriptions.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B

"LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS": As

Lemony might say, this big-screen adaptation of his accounts of the miseries of the unfortunate Baudelaire orphans is fair-to-middling, which means "moderately good; passable." Jim Carrey makes a suitably creepy Count Olaf, but there's too much Carrey in his Count. The orphans are divinely cast, and director Brad Silberling uses the youngest, Sunny, for fine comic effect. This one ought to work for kids, but for adults who aren't into the books, the unfortunate events start to get a little repetitive. — M. Pols. (PG: thematic elements, scary situations and brief language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B-

"THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU": American auteur Wes Anderson's spoof of a Jacques Cousteau-style underwater explorer, Steve Zissou (Bill Murray). Though it is visually fantastic and has a great cast, including Cate Blanchett, Owen Wilson, Willem Dafoe and Anjelica Huston, the film goes nowhere, is emotionally inert, and the laughs are few and far between. — M. Pols. (R: language, some drug use, violence and partial nudity.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. C-

"MEET THE FOCKERS": This sequel to "Meet the Parents" has a gag reflex that milks every bodily secretion for laughs. That it often gets to be a tribute to the cast, headed by Robert De Niro (as Jack Byrnes, father of the Desperate Housewife), Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand (as Bernie and Roz Focker). Jack insists on driving everyone to meet the future in-laws, the Fockers, in Florida aboard an RV. Along for the ride are Greg Focker (Ben Stiller), Jack's daughter Pam (Teri Polo), his wife, Dina (Blythe Danner), and their grandson. When the in-laws-to-be meet, the movie's vast checklist gets going. — B. Newman. (PG-13: crude and sexual humor, profanity, a brief drug reference.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. C+

"MILLION DOLLAR BABY": Clint Eastwood directs and stars in the story of an ambitious boxer, Maggie (Hilary Swank), and her crusty but adored trainer, Frankie (Eastwood). The picture is very good, mostly for the interesting twist it takes midway, but it's over-hyped and laced with trite elements, including the voice-over narration of Morgan Freeman, who plays Frankie's only friend and right-hand man. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, some disturbing images, thematic material and language.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B+

"NATIONAL TREASURE": Mega-macho producer Jerry Bruckheimer takes a single high-concept idea — a secret treasure map printed on the back of the Declaration of Independence — and attempts to reverse-engineer it into an Indiana Jones movie. The hero is Benjamin Franklin Gates (Nicolas Cage). Jon Voight plays Ben's befuddled father, and Harvey Keitel is the inevitable cop, willing to do whatever it takes in pursuit of the purported parchment. — B. Newman. (PG: action violence, some scary images.) 2 hour, 5 minutes. C+

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE": Jeremy Irons, Al Pacino and Joseph Fiennes star in this better-than-average Shakespeare retelling. Watching the film is like seeing a gallery of Renaissance paintings come to life, and while the effect is occasionally contrived, it mostly deepens the wonder and strangeness of the play. Judiciously trimmed to manageable length, this "Merchant" is, for the most part, faithful in letter and spirit to its source material. — A.O. Scott. (R: some nudity.) 2 hour, 7 minutes. B+

"OCEAN'S TWELVE": George Clooney's ultracute gang of thieves (Julia Roberts makes an even dozen) is back for another fun caper, this

See **REVIEWS**, Page C4

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday Jan. 28

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2
2128 Center St., Berkeley 510-777-3456
• **Where's My Love** (Not Rated) 7:15, 9:15
• **Where's My Love** (Not Rated) 9:30
• **Where's My Love** (Not Rated) 9:30

Albany Twin
1130 Albany Ave., Albany 510-777-3456
• **Very Long Engagement** (R) 2, 5, 8
• **The Merchant of Venice** (R) 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 4, 5

Alameda Bay Street 16
1600 Broadway St., Emeryville 510-457-4262
• **Where's My Love** (Not Rated) 11:55, 2:10, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
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Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

time in gorgeous European settings (Amsterdam, Paris, Rome), but their cuteness seems to have gone to their heads. They're turned into a true Rat Pack, celebrities who just want to have fun making movies together, no matter how thin the plot or how weak the devices they use are (a meta-gag involving Roberts is just embarrassingly unimaginative). With Steven Soderbergh at the helm, the film is certainly easy on the eyes, but it's instantly forgettable. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language) 2 hours, 10 minutes. **C**

"THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA": Tens of thousands of candles flicker throughout lavish Baroque sets. The Phantom glowers dramatically. Every bosom in sight heaves. Star-crossed lovers declare, in song, their undying devotion. There are red roses everywhere. The only thing missing is Mariah Carey, who would be right at home in this gaudy, senseless interpretation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's popular stage musical, directed by Joel Schumacher and starring the lovely young Emmy Rossum and Gerard Butler as a whiny, indecisive Phantom. — M. Pols. (PG-13: brief violent images) 2 hours, 23 minutes. **C-**

"THE POLAR EXPRESS": The buzz was that Robert Zemeckis' movie was going to change the face of moviemaking with its high-tech innovations. But to fans of Chris Van Allsburg's 29-page, heavily illustrated book, the bigger question was whether the film could do justice to this beloved children's holiday tale. The answer: yes! Wonderfully, the source material has been broadened with great respect and tenderness. Tom Hanks served as the source for many animated roles. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 36 minutes. **B+**

"RACING STRIPES": Whereas the talking little piggy "Babe" wanted to be a sheep-herding dog, the talking baby zebra of "Racing Stripes" wants to be a racehorse. And the farmer's daughter, Channing (Hayden Panettiere), wants to be a jockey. Together they sneak into the prestigious Kentucky Open, where Stripes competes against a spoiled thoroughbred. A menagerie of characters are voiced by such stars as Whoopi Goldberg, Dustin Hoffman and Frankie Muniz. — C. Lemire. (PG: crude humor, some language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. **C**

"RAY": Jamie Foxx channels the late, great Ray Charles in this fascinating biopic that doesn't skim over the rough spots in the musician's past, including heroin addiction and much womanizing. But the movie suffers from the conundrum of being both too shallow and too long. — M. Pols.

(R: a depiction of drug addiction, sexuality, some thematic elements.) 2 hours, 32 minutes. **B-**

"SIDEWAYS": Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church are two very different middle-aged men on a road trip through the Santa Barbara wine country in this just-about-perfect movie from director Alexander Payne ("Election," "About Schmidt"). Wickedly funny, with some of the best slapstick this year, but poignant, too. — M. Pols. (R: language, some strong sexual content, nudity) 2 hours, 4 minutes. **A**

"SKY BLUE": This South Korean offering is one beautifully drawn piece of anime that is a fusion of worried environmentalism and goody love story. The year is 2140, and man's abuses have destroyed the planet, leaving behind a smattering of people who've constructed the technologically advanced Ecoban. Built to survive any future disaster, Ecoban is a living, breathing city that has an organic quality, although further growth might be a challenge, since no one's seen the sun in years. — W. Morris. (Not rated: in English.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. **B**

"VERA DRAKE": Vera (Imelda Staunton) is the cheeriest, most helpful gal in her dingy London neighborhood, circa 1950. She's also a back-alley abortionist, "helping out" hundreds of poor women. Director Mike Leigh handles this incendiary topic with a bare-bones economy that goes straight to the legal and moral questions, without being overt or strident. The ensemble cast, particularly Staunton, is superb. — M. Pols. (R: adult themes) 2 hours, 5 minutes. **A-**

"A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT": Audrey Tautou stars in this odd but charming and stylish movie. The story begins in 1919, two years after Manech's court-martial and death sentence for intentionally wounding himself on the front, then disappearing. The official word is that he's dead. But the smart and superstitious Mathilde (Tautou) is not convinced. She engages the help of an exuberant private detective, and together they begin inching toward the truth. — C. Chocano. (R: graphic violence, some sexuality and nudity; in French with English subtitles.) 2 hours, 13 minutes. **B**

"WHAT THE \$#! DO WE KNOW?": Marlee Matlin stars in this lively exploration of quantum physics that mixes talking-head observations, giddy animation and a mini-drama about a photographer (Marlee Matlin) dealing with a failed love life. — R. Dennerstein. (NR) 1 hour, 48 minutes. **B**

"WHITE NOISE": Michael Keaton is the hero of this inane ghost story. While grieving over the death of his wife, a stranger tells him he receives communications from the dead — blurry, indistinct messages that come

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CYBERCHUCKLES BY JOE DIPIETRO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Place to buy ice cream	1 Zero on the screen
8 Family subdivisions	2 Completely
14 Go after	3 English policy makers
20 Taking a break	4 Some sneakers
21 The one that got away	5 Favorite activity, slangily
22 1950 #1 hit for the Fleetwoods	6 Columbus, in N.Y.C.
23 Stick-in-the-mud types	7 Turn over
24 Rich man's wife, often	8 Live Aid founder Bob
26 Jacks and such	9 Famed New York eatery
27 Whirlpools	10 Certain powers
29 Schubert's Symphony _____	11 Popular ice cream
30 Yahoo competitor	12 Antique auto
31 LAX listing. Abbr.	13 Speak to the owner?
32 Common law for film braves	14 Words of agreement
34 Bel cheese	15 Trendy New York area
36 A new start?	16 USA competitor
37 Consequence of war	17 Ones with degrees
39 Kind of bean	18 Foul-mouth
40 Stone memorial	19 Enamored of
42 "What have I done?"	20 Rest on top of
43 Fluster	21 "And how?"
46 Italian car, briefly	22 Maria's boy
48 Mil fliers	23 In an entangled state
	24 Like some crosses
	25 Luxury Toyota
	26 Critic with big sideburns
	27 Not prompt for
	28 Psychodelic, in a way
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to him over the radio or computer. The film throws in a lot of excess baggage — a serial killer, a string of missing women, clues to a mystery, confused family dynamics — all of which obscures anything that could have been scary or interesting. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: language, violence.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. **D-**

"THE WOODSMAN": Kevin Bacon is constrained and bottled-up as a child molester trying to reintegrate into society. But this first-time feature by

Nicole Kassell doesn't go the distance with its controversial material. With Bacon's wife, Kyra Sedgwick, as the blue-collar love interest. — B. Strauss. (R: sex, nudity, language, violence, children in jeopardy.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. **C+**

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At the Former Alameda Point Naval Air Station
Next Show: Sunday, February 6
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Obituaries and In Memoriam

Da'Rand Ashanti Shariah

Da'Rand Ashanti Shariah passed away in El Cerrito, CA, on January 20, 2005. Funeral Services were held on January 26, at Bethel AHE Church in San Francisco. Interment will be at the National Cemetery in Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

The Bryant Mortuary
415-861-4559

MAC'S NIGHTLY SPECIAL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Dinner Entrees 25% to 50% Off.	Manager's Surprise!	Selected Appetizers 50% Off	Martini Specials 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	All Bottled Wine 50% Off	Chance to Pay Our Rent!	Low Price Prime Steaks

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HOTEL MAC

Take the Richmond Pkwy
50 Washington Ave., Point Richmond
*Reservations Advised
(510) 233-0576

The Dining Guide

Sushi House
Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar
Open 7 days a week from 11AM to 10PM
Tel: 510-865-0999 • Fax: 510-865-2404
8 South Shore Center, Alameda
www.sushihouse.com

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 • 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621

Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. - Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner.

Sushi House

2226B South Shore Center, Alameda (510) 565-0900

When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come experience why locals & out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will delight your senses with unique, award-winning sushi creations not found elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. Showcasing these excellent beginnings are chef-owner James' own creations such as "Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado; "Crazy Monkey" - yellow tail, salmon, eel, tobo and cucumber; & "Dynamite" - yellow tail, salmon, tuna & hellhot deep fried whoopee special sauce - spicy! Frequent Sushi House diners John & Sallie Crittenden agreed that "James is a real artist & his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted." Sushi House is open nonstop from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration, Sushi House is the hip & trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VSS W

Speisekammer

2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda (510) 522-1300

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AE	American Express	\$	Entrées under \$7
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Events

FAGE

TORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY — "Seducer" by Sam Shepard, through Feb. 19. An eccentric billionaire dies with madness as he nears the end of his life. \$10. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Feb. 13, 2 p.m.; Feb. 17, 8 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1901 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-348-0959 or www.aosofberkeley.org

JUBA THEATRE COMPANY — "Dublin Carol" by Conor McPherson, Feb. 5 through March 6. Set in the office of an Irish undertaker on Christmas Eve, the play tells a tale both sad and humorous about a man whose life is destroyed by alcoholism but who is offered a last chance for redemption. \$36 to \$45. Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822 or www.auroratheatre.org

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE — "Fetes de la Nuit" by Charles A. Mee, Feb. 2 through Feb. 27. The world premiere of Mee's play set in contemporary Paris. The play, through song and dance, takes a raw and erotic look at French attempts to reconcile their traditions with modern multiculturalism. Feb. 2, 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 p.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$10 to \$55.

AY DATA, Feb. 6, noon to 5 p.m. Parents will receive a discounted matinee of "Fetes de la Nuit" while their children, ages 2 to 11, enjoy five hours of supervised activities at the Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Allston Way. Reservations required. \$20 per child for a \$25 discounted adult theatre ticket.

THE EIGHTH STREET STUDIOS — "The Serpent" by Jean Claude Van Itallie, Jan. 28 through Feb. 19. The Ragged Wing Ensemble employs movement, masks and puppetry in a play that uses the Garden of Eden myth to explore the loss of innocence in contemporary American culture. \$10 to \$20. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-527-8119 or www.raggedwing.org

HEATREFIRST — "Frontiers American" by Guillermo Verdecchia, through Feb. 13. The U.S. premiere of this solo performance features Bay Area actor and comedian Ben Ortega, and tells the story of a man's journey from his adoptive Canada back to his native Argentina, between continents, across countries and time, and within communities. \$18 to \$22 general; \$15 for seniors and students; \$9 for children under age 25. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. Lissner Hall, Mills College, 3000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-438-0185 or www.theatrefirst.com

ASICAL MUSIC — "Il Trittico" by

Giacomo Puccini, Jan. 29 through Feb. 6. Three one-act operas: "Il Tabarro," "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi." In Italian with English subtitles. \$16 to \$40 general; \$35 seniors; \$15 youth and disabled persons; \$10 student rush on the night of the performance. Jan. 29, 8 p.m.; Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 2 p.m.; Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. (925) 798-1300, 510-841-1903 or www.berkeley-opera.org

CAL PERFORMANCES — Takacs Quartet, Feb. 6, 3 p.m. Concert of string quartets by Beethoven. There is a pre-performance talk at 2 p.m.

\$42. Hertz Hall, University of California at Berkeley, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

MAGNIFICAT — Jan. 29, 8 p.m. Early music ensemble performs Marc-Antoine Charpentier's "The Sacrifice of Abraham and the Prodigal Son." \$25 general; \$18 seniors; \$12 students. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 415-979-4500 or www.magnificatbaroque.org

MILLS COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC — Nicolas Collins, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. Celebrating "the musical joys of hardware hacking." In the Ensemble Room. Free. Eliane Radigue, Feb. 5, 8 p.m. New electro-acoustic musical works. \$12 general; \$6 seniors. Concert Hall, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2296.

MUSIC SOURCES — Claramelia, Jan. 30, 5 p.m. Renaissance ensemble performs "Music of Composers from Liege and Burgundy, 1400-1477." \$18 general; \$15 students and seniors. 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. 510-528-1685.

NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA — Feb. 3, 8 p.m. Works by Henry Cowell, Lou Harrison, Aaron Jay Kernis and Astor Piazzolla. \$18 to \$39. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. (415) 392-4400, (415) 357-1111. www.city-boxoffice.com or www.ncco.org

OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT — Feb. 6, 3 p.m. Michael Morgan and Bryan Nies conduct works by Franz von Suppe, Schubert and Grieg. \$12 general; \$8 students and seniors. Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda. 510-832-7710 or www.oyo.org

ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — CHAMBER MUSIC SUNDAYS — Programs by San Francisco Symphony members and friends. All shows begin at 3:15 p.m. Feb. 6: Works by Brahms, Shostakovich and Schubert. \$19 general; \$15 seniors and students; \$7 under 18. 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. (415) 584-5946 or www.chambermusicsundays.org

DANCE — THE 2005 BLACK CHOREOGRA-

PHERS FESTIVAL: "HERE AND NOW" — Feb. 4 through Feb. 13. The African and African-American Performing Arts Coalition, the Black Performing Artists Network and ODC Theater present annual festival celebrating African and African-American dance and culture. Performers include: Robert Henry Johnson, KKDE/Kendra Kimbrough, LINES Baile/Alonzo King, Robert Moses' Kin, Fua Dia Congo, Housini' Authority, Dimensions Dance Theater/Deborah Vaughan, Joanna Halgood, Savage Jazz/Reginald Ray Savage, Teela Shine and Corey Harris/New Style Motherlode, and Naomi and Zak Dioul/Diamano Coura West African Dance Company. Feb. 4-6: Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. 510-238-7219. \$15 to \$20 general. \$15 students and seniors; \$10 for family matinees/children 12 and under. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m.; family matinees Sunday, 3 p.m. 510-801-4523

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — Baile/Dance, Jan. 29, 8 p.m. A live Latin jazz performance by two bands. \$10. "Rhythm Village," Feb. 4, 8 p.m. A performance of West African music and dance. All are welcome to participate in drumming. \$14 general; \$12 students. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

OUTDOORS

REI BERKELEY — "A Test of Will: One Climber's Remarkable Story of Survival." Feb. 1. Free slide presentation by Warren Macdonald. 7 p.m. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140.

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — "Tea and Hike at Four," Mondays through April 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Taste teas from the Pacific Rim and South Asia and hike to the lake. Registration required. \$5 to \$7.

"Tilden Toddlers," Feb. 5, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Explore the Nature Area looking for amphibian friends. For ages 2 to 3. "Kids Garden Club," Feb. 5 and Feb. 19, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the world of gardening: plant, harvest, build, make crafts, cook and get dirty. For ages 7 to 12. Registration required. \$5 to \$7. 510-525-2233.

"Conifers of California," Feb. 6, 10 a.m. to noon. Look at some of the tallest, biggest and rarest cone-bearing trees and learn about their history.

"Mythical Owls," Feb. 6, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Learn to separate the facts from the fiction about owls.

Free unless noted. Entrances off Wildcat Canyon Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. 510-525-2233 or www.abparks.org

EXHIBITS

ALAMEDA ART CENTER — OPENING — "Impressions: Matrix and Image," Feb. 2 through Feb. 24. A printmaking juried exhibition featuring artists from the California Society of Printmakers as well as a collection of woodblocks, linocuts, stones and metal plates used in the production of hand-pulled prints. Opening Reception, Feb. 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1701 Webster St., Alameda. 510-748-7888 or

www.alamedaartcenter.org
ALAMEDA ART CENTER AT THE MARKETPLACE — OPENING — Michele Hausman, Feb. 2 through Feb. 28. Impressionistic oil paintings of the California Farmers' Market by the artist. Reception, Feb. 4, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free. Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. 1650 Park St., Alameda. 510-748-7888

ARTS AND CRAFTS CO-OPERATIVE (ACC) GALLERY — CLOSING — "Texture: The Many Layers of Textile Arts," closing Jan. 31. An exhibit of works by Natasha Fouko, Joy Lily, Susan Putnam and Deb Shattil. Free. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527 or www.acgallery.com

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION — "Transfigurations," closing Feb. 2. An exhibit of works by A.G. Rizzoli. Free. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. Flora Lamson Hewlett Library 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. 510-849-2541 or www.gtu.edu/library/

HOLLIS STREET PROJECT — "Collective Punch," through Feb. 25. Twelve emerging artists present new works, including figurative and abstract paintings, sculptures, works on paper, encaustic, mixed media works, finger print lifts, license plates, watercolors, steel works, ceramics, oils and acrylics. "Commotion," through Feb. 25. An exhibit of works by 10 emerging artists. Meet the artists, Monday through Friday 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. "Deciphering the Code," through Feb



CAL PERFORMANCES

CAL PERFORMANCES presents Cirque Eloize on Jan. 29 and Jan. 30, doing performances of "Rain," featuring character-driven clowning, aerial work, acrobatics and live music. Showtimes are Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$26 to \$48. Shows are at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

ing Jan. 29. A group exhibition of work created by Fellowship artists, artists-in-residence and others. Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4:30 p.m. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977 or www.kala.org

ROYAL GROUND GALLERY — "Winter Solstice," through Apr. 3. An exhibit of paintings, handmade paper works and baskets by 10 artists. Free. Daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2058 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-339-0348

KALA ART INSTITUTE — CLOSING — "Kala Artists' Annual Exhibition," closing Jan. 29. A group exhibition of work created by Fellowship artists, artists-in-residence and others. Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4:30 p.m. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977 or www.kala.org

AGES 8-18

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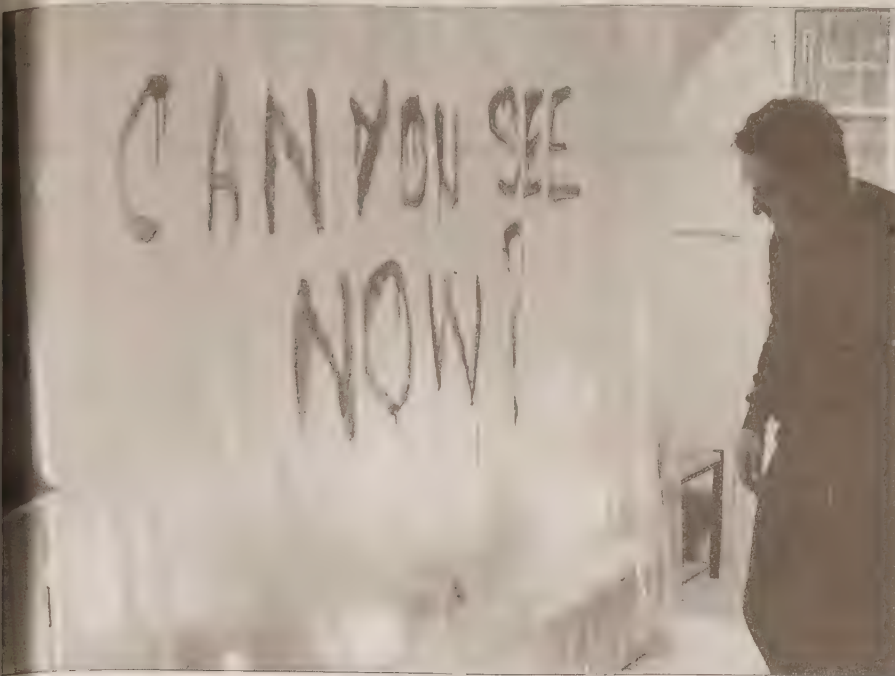
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Shopping 101



CALLAWAY'S (Robert De Niro) daughter has a new friend who's imaginary — or is he? And has he been leaving messages?

De Niro's talents wasted in 'Hide and Seek'

By Mary F. Pals
STAFF WRITER

Robert De Niro hasn't been in a really good movie since 1997. "Hide and Seek" constitutes worth nothing twice, and in this case, I'm talking about Quentin Tarantino's "Jackie Brown" (junk comedies such as "Meet the Parents" don't count). Before we'd have to look to 1995's "Heat" for another movie worthy of De Niro's gifts. What has happened to the man widely considered to be one of the absolute best American actors?

It might be laziness. Or, more likely, he's ended up in "Hide and Seek," a "Sixth Sense" wannabe that has moments of enjoyable moments, but ends on a note that is so laughable if it weren't sickening.

De Niro plays David Callaway, an urban psychologist whose wife (Amy Irving, Elisabeth Shue) dies in a few minutes of the film. His young daughter, Emily (Emily Fanning), who sees her father's body in a tub full of water, is understandably traumatized. So David takes her to the country upstate, a dream that worries Katherine

REVIEW

- **WHAT:** "Hide and Seek"
- **STARRING:** Robert De Niro, Amy Irving, Elisabeth Shue
- **RATING:** R (frightening sequences and violence)
- **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 45 minutes
- **GRADE:** C-

(Famke Janssen), the girl's shrink.

Their new home, a rental, is quaint, fully furnished and right on a lake. Don't you love the convenience of life in the movies? Everyone is upper-middle-class, moves take a few hours, new homes come tastefully decorated and dads who need to spend more time with their kids can just quit their jobs or take a leave of absence. Would it have been so hard for writer Ari Schlossberg or director John Polson ("Swimfan") to throw us a bone of reality along the lines of, "Hey, Emily, Mommy left us plenty of money, so I don't have to work for a while?"

Emily, already sporting some major circles under her eyes, gets

weirder and weirder in their new home. She's made an imaginary friend, Charlie, whom she uses to taunt her father.

"He's a lot of fun," she says, with a secretive smile when her dad asks for more information on Charlie. David becomes suspicious that Charlie is actually a real person when bad things start happening in the house, the most tame of which entails the demise of their fluffy gray cat (marked for death from the moment we see him enjoying a moment of content at the hearth).

Suspicious types abound in their new hometown of Woodland (population 2,206). The neighbors (Melissa Leo and Robert John Burke) have been unhinged by the recent death of their own daughter, who was about Emily's age.

The local sheriff (Dylan Baker) has a menacing air about him. Their real estate agent looks like the Big Bad Wolf and is found, at one point, on his hands and knees in front of the Callaways' door.

Even David's potential new love interest (Elisabeth Shue) has a strange, nervous energy. At least some of them must be red herrings, and they are fairly ef-

fective in distracting us from the real culprit.

Polson's scares are all straight out of the thriller/horror book, with lamps swaying in the wind, doors that creak open and music building to a crescendo. But even with all the trappings and clichés of those movies, the movie's twist didn't become obvious until a few minutes before the climax. Maybe that's because it is so unpalatable and heartless that it hardly seems feasible.

Fanning is spooky to watch, not just because Emily seems dangerous, but because Fanning, not yet 11, by all rights should not be this preternaturally poised. The obvious comparison is to Haley Joel Osment, another kid with a knowing face who can carry a movie.

Fanning has already co-starred with Sean Penn and Denzel Washington. Next up for her: sharing the screen with Tom Cruise and Tim Robbins in Spielberg's "War of the Worlds." Let's hope that's a project worth her time and talent. As for De Niro, who is flat-out boring in "Hide and Seek," let's not hold our breath.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "The Broker," by John Grisham (Doubleday, \$27.95.)
2. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
3. "The Final Solution," by Michael Chabon. (Fourth Estate, \$16.95.)
4. "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson (FSG, \$23.)
5. "Runaway," by Alice Munro. (Knopf, \$25.)
6. "The Plot Against America," by Philip Roth. (Houghton Mifflin, \$26.)
7. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," by Mitch Albom. (Hyperion, \$16.95.)
8. "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinson. (Little, Brown, \$23.95.)
9. "State of Fear," by Michael Crichton. (HarperCollins, \$27.95.)
10. "Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell," by Susanna Clark. (Bloomsbury, \$27.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "Collapse," Jared Diamond. (Viking, \$29.95.)
2. "Blink," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Little, Brown, \$25.95.)
3. "French Women Don't Get Fat," Mireille Giuliano. (Knopf, \$22.)
4. "On Food and Cooking," by Harold J. McGee. (Scribner, \$35.)
5. "America (The Book)," by John Stewart, et al. (Warner, \$24.95.)
6. "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," John Perkins. (Berrett-Koehler, \$24.95.)
7. "Animals in Translation," by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. (Scribner, \$25.)
8. "He's Just Not That Into You," by Greg Behrmdt and Liz Tuccillo. (Simon & Schuster, \$19.95.)
9. "Witness," by Amber Frey. (Regan Books, \$25.95.)
10. "What's the Matter with Kansas?" by Thomas Frank. (Metropolitan, \$24.)

Trade paperback fiction

1. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)
2. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," by Mark Haddon

- (Vintage, \$12.)
3. "Middlesex," by Jeffrey Eugenides (Picador, \$15.)
4. "The Time Traveler's Wife," by Audrey Niffenegger. (Harvest, \$14.)
5. "The Known World," by Edward P. Jones. (Amistad, \$13.95.)
6. "The Birth of Venus," by Sarah Dunant. (Random House, \$13.95.)
7. "The News From Paraguay," Lily Tuck. (Perennial, \$13.95.)
8. "The Secret Life of Bees," by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)
9. "The Namesake," by Jhumpa Lahiri (Manner, \$14.)
10. "The True & Outstanding Adventures of the Hunt Sisters," by Elisabeth Robinson. (Back Bay, \$13.95.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "Don't Think of an Elephant," by George Lakoff. (Chelsea Green, \$10.)
2. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi. (Random House, \$13.95.)
3. "Bad Cat," by Jim Edgar. (Workman, \$9.95.)
4. "The Bookseller of Kabul," Asne Seierstad. (Back Bay, \$12.95.)
5. "A Short History of Nearly Everything," by Bill Bryson. (Broadway, \$15.95.)
6. "Under the Banner of Heaven," Jon Krakauer. (Anchor, \$14.95.)
7. "The Hidden Messages in Water," by Masaru Emoto. (Beyond Words, \$16.95.)
8. "Zagat San Francisco/Bay Area Restaurants," (Zagat/Survey, \$12.95.)
9. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
10. "Stiff," by Mary Roach. (Norton, \$13.95.)

Mass market paperback

1. "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown (Pocket, \$7.99.)
2. "The Last Juror," by John Grisham (Dell, \$7.99.)
3. "Death In A Strange Country," by Donna Leon. (Penguin, \$7.99.)
4. "The Second Chair," John Lescroart (Signet, \$7.99.)
5. "The Sinister Pig," by Tony Hillerman. (HarperTorch, \$7.99.)

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

Abrams

FROM PAGE C8

"I don't think I'm going to be a concert pianist. That I know," said Abrams. "I want to play the piano as well as I can because it's great for composition and score reading. I know MTT plays the piano very well. Leonard Bernstein played the piano. Many, many conductors and composers have been pianists."

He plans to pursue a master's in conducting after he completes his bachelor's degree in May.

"That's the idea. I'm thinking 18 is a little young to be all by myself and on my own, especially

since I really do want to go on the conducting path. That's the thing I'm most interested in."

Wherever his musical pursuits take him, Abrams hasn't forgotten the chance he had to join the band at Head-Royce. "That's how people get their start in music. Otherwise, there are Bachs and Mozarts that I'll probably never be discovered. I always think, 'How many people with talent never got the opportunity?' So, it's all about opportunity."

And a little talent.

Reach freelance writer Keith Gleason at journal@cttimes.com.

NIAD

FROM PAGE C8

The young man who now visits NIAD daily used to spend his in and out of hospitals. When he first came, all he did was start to do art, was clay," says Asercion. Today, Emily colors tiny squares with felt pens, creating fantastical buildings. Not a hypodermic shot.

She writes about the changes this sort of art therapy can make. "We have seen the creative impulse burst forth like a flood of water when the flood has been removed. We have a people cry when viewing their own work."

James Moore is a tapestry artist and NIAD teacher. "I love that they don't see things the same eyes that we do. They don't have the same filters cognitive or rational process. We do so they get to what it is they're doing much clearer. It's more raw," she says. "We've wrecked me for every kind of art."

More is not alone in her taste what is called by some as "older art," and the work of NIAD's artists is collected around the world.

Sylvia Frago's embroidered art pieces have been exhibited in Japan and China, Santa Monica and Palm Beach. Arstanda "Billy" White came to NIAD ten years ago with a wad of drawings stuffed in his sock. Today, his work is highly collected, and hangs in New York galleries and the San Francisco Legion of Honor. Samuel Gant's paintings have graced the walls of galleries and museums in Copenhagen, Washington, DC, and the Oakland Museum.

NIAD artists receive half of the proceeds from the sale of their artwork, and the remainder helps fund the NIAD art program.

But after 20 years in the business of caring for disabled adults, the people who work at NIAD know that the top priority is taking care of these individuals, of nurturing their spirit.

"My mom passed away Thursday night," says Tammy, suddenly becoming distressed. She is one of four people who have announced during my short visit that a family member had recently died.

"I think that was a long time ago, Tammy," says her teacher, laying a gentle hand on her shoulder. "But I know it can feel like it just happened."

The enormous workspace is filled with hoots and shouts, singing and music. Some of the artists do not speak, and are engulfed in their work. Others laugh and talk, joking and commenting on each other's work.

In a sunny bank of windows, Raven paints a rose on wood. She smiles, tilts her head, continues her painting as we talk. When asked how she likes creating art at NIAD each day, she says simply, "It's my favorite thing to do."

Metrius Englin has drawn a stunning piece with a bald woman on dark construction paper. She describes her work: "This is really sad, it's about a young girl, she's, you know, been abused, by family. And people won't accept her because she has a handicap problem. She cries, she has children, you know, but she doesn't know how to express her feelings."

The curator examines it and says, "It's very powerful. Just what I am looking for in the next show."

Metrius' smile could outshine the moon.

Suzanne LaFetra is a freelance writer. Contact her at suzlafetra@yahoo.com.

The countdown

The composer has read dozens of books about the events portrayed in "Doctor Atomic" and has done extensive research on the life of Oppenheimer. He describes the scientist as "a man of intense culture" who named the Los Alamos test site "Trinity" after a line from a sonnet by John Donne. "The Army just couldn't stand him," Adams said. "They figured a man who spoke four languages had to be suspicious."

Adams is currently midway through the opera's second of two acts and is about to compose the pivotal countdown scene. "It may be the hardest thing I've ever done," he said. "It's ridiculous to try to orchestrate the explosion, but I want to create the immense sense of expectation leading up to it." In-

corporated in the score is a sampled "soundscape" much like the one Adams used in the Pulitzer Prize-winning oratorio, "On the Transmigration of Souls," written to commemorate the dead after Sept. 11, 2001.

Adams says he's happy to talk about physics, the bomb and the history behind "Doctor Atomic." But he stressed that the opera is first and foremost a work of art.

Still, writing "Doctor Atomic" has had an unexpected effect on the composer. "My feelings about the use of the bomb have changed," he said.

"I am not a pacifist," noted Adams, adding that someone recently asked him if he would have participated in the building of the bomb had he been in Oppenheimer's position. "I would have said yes."

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GEORGIA ROWE
Classical Notes

Opera tackles weighty subject

HOW POLITICAL is an artist allowed to be? That question — surely one of the most provocative an artist can ask at this point in our history — was posed by San Francisco Opera music director Donald Runnicles this month at the War Memorial Opera House.

The occasion was the San Francisco Opera's annual press conference, as the company under general director Pamela Rosenberg was announcing plans for the 2005-06 season. Runnicles asked the question by way of introducing an upcoming production of Beethoven's "Fidelio." But it was John Adams, there to talk about his new opera, "Doctor Atomic," who offered some of the most intriguing answers.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning composer has met with controversy before, with his previous operas "Nixon in China" and "The Death of Klinghoffer." Both were based on historic 20th century events.

A base of historical fact

But he's taken on a mega-ton subject with "Doctor Atomic," which deals with the building of the first atomic bomb and is largely based on fact. The opera's title character is scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer, and the others in the opera — including physicist Edward Teller — are historic figures as well. Sixty years after the actual events took place, the opera, which will make its world premiere Oct. 1 at the War Memorial, is sure to reopen debate about the Manhattan Project and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Adams, who was approached by Rosenberg to write the story of "an American Faust" in 1999, admitted that he was irresistibly attracted to the idea.

"I was a child of the Cold War," Adams said, adding that he learned as a schoolboy in New Hampshire to hide under his desk in the event of an atomic attack. "I've always been drawn to these themes, beginning with 'Nixon in China.'"

Like many children of the era, Adams grew up on a steady diet of '50s sci-fi films — hence the opera's comic-book title. "I wanted to present the slightest bit of American pop flavor," he said, "so it doesn't look like I'm carrying 'the answer' on a platter."

In their own words

Yet Adams acknowledges that "Doctor Atomic" delves into one of the 20th century's most controversial events. "The Los Alamos story is one of the great American myths," he said. "In some ways, it's the greatest American myth."

The advent of the bomb, he says, changed the course of history. "We went from being a species inhabiting the planet with other species and became capable of destroying the planet with a flip of the switch."

"Doctor Atomic" takes place in 1945 in Los Alamos, N.M., in the final days before the detonation of the first atomic bomb.

See ROWE, Page C7



COMPOSER JOHN ADAMS' new opera, "Doctor Atomic," which deals with the building of the first atomic bomb, will make its world premiere Oct. 1 at the War Memorial Opera House.

Musician, 17, draws attention

■ Teddy Abrams is making a name for himself playing the clarinet and piano

By Keith Gleason
CORRESPONDENT

Teddy Abrams has made the most of his musical opportunities and talent in his young life, as he's become a virtuoso clarinetist and pianist, and conductor at age 17.

Abrams, who was born in Berkeley, and has lived in Oakland and Piedmont, began piano lessons at the age of 5 and clarinet lessons at age 8, after a school band was begun when he was a third-grader at Head-Royce School in Oakland.

"My school didn't have an elementary school band, and they started this. I jumped at the chance. Well, I thought I'd just play saxophone like everybody else, but it was too big for my hand. The clarinet fit much better. I really liked it," said Abrams.

He almost quit the piano at age 11, but his new conducting teacher, San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, wouldn't let him.

"I decided I just wanted to do clarinet and forget the piano, but then I began studying with MTT, and he said to me, 'You must not do this.' I said, 'The piano is such a mechanical instrument.' And then he went and played Ravel's 'Pavane for a Dead Princess,' and he said, 'Does that sound mechanical to you?' I remember that because I couldn't say 'yes.' It certainly was not mechanical."

Six years later, he's the featured soloist for Beethoven's popular Piano Concerto No. 5 with Symphony Parnassus. The group will perform an all-Beethoven program on Sunday at the Phillips Temple CMC Church in Berkeley. Also on the program are the Symphony No. 5 and the "Egmont" Overture.

Guest appearances

Abrams has appeared as a clarinet soloist with the San Francisco, Oakland East Bay and Berkeley symphonies, and the Berkeley and Oakland youth orchestras. He has toured Europe twice with the San Francisco Youth Symphony, and spent two summers at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Since 1998, he's also played the clarinet in the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, and conducted the orchestra in rehearsal. He's also led Tilson Thomas' New World Symphony at concerts in Carnegie Hall and Washington, D.C.

Following elementary school, Abrams' education took an unconventional turn. He never attended middle school or high



TEDDY ABRAMS, 17, plans to pursue a master's in conducting after he completes his bachelor's degree in May.

CONCERT

WHO: Stephen Paulson, conductor; Teddy Abrams, piano

PROGRAM: Beethoven/Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor," Beethoven/Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Beethoven/"Egmont" Overture

WHEN: 4 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: Phillips Temple CMC Church, 3332 Adeline, Berkeley

HOW MUCH: \$25

CALL: 510-655-6527 or 415-986-6026 or visit www.symphonyparnassus.org

school, but went straight to Laney College in Oakland after fifth grade. He transferred to the Conservatory in 2003, joining about 50 other piano majors, and now studies with Paul Hersch.

Abrams studies privately with David Breeden, principal clarinetist with the San Francisco Symphony. Breeden sits next to Steve Paulson, the principal bassoonist of the symphony, and conductor of the Symphony Parnassus.

In 2001, Paulson invited Abrams to play Copland's Clarinet Concerto with the Symphony

Parnassus. The performance of the Copland piece and his current focus on the piano led Paulson to invite Abrams to choose a piano concerto to play with Symphony Parnassus.

Given all his musical experience, the young artist approached the decision from a practical point of view. "You have to take into account many factors. There's the piano side and then there's the orchestra side of it," said Abrams.

"I love the 'Emperor' Concerto. There's something about it—it's such a natural piece. Even though it's such an expanded piece, people love listening to it. It has great, large expressions that people take to," said Abrams.

Dedication to art

Paulson has great respect for Abrams' abilities, his humility and dedication to his art. "Teddy's a real musician. It's all about the music for him. He's not someone seeking fame for himself. You can't be that good and not focus on the music," said Paulson.

The Jan. 30 concert will be the second time he's played the "Emperor" concerto with the orchestra — the first time was just last

Sunday at a packed Jan. 23 concert at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, the home of Symphony Parnassus. The "Emperor" is an ambitious piece for any pianist, but Abrams handled it well in his debut, playing it as almost just another member of the orchestra who had extra solo parts, and without the flashiness of many pianists.

Abrams served the music; the music didn't serve him.

Abrams said playing the clarinet as a member of many orchestras and as a soloist has helped him be a better pianist. "It helps on the piano because when you get into the concerto environment, all of a sudden your timing is affecting a lot of other people. You can't just do whatever you want."

"It's a joyful playing that's truly logical," said Paulson of Abrams' piano playing.

While he's focused on graduation from the Conservatory in May, Abrams is also looking toward the future, although he doesn't want to think about choosing between the clarinet, piano or conducting until he has to.

"I don't think I'm going to be

See ABRAMS, Page C7

Disabled adults turn creativity into art form

By Suzanne LaFetra
CORRESPONDENT

One of the artists wears a black leather Everlast boxing helmet while he works. Next to him at a drawing table works another artist, who, today, speaks only in an invented language. Throughout our glibberish conversation, full of head nods and smiles, Tammy bursts in, each time bearing a small gift: the liner notes of an ancient Jackson 5 recording, a collage with images of Earth Wind & Fire, a small white piece of paper with gold scribbles. She is an artist, too.

Meet the artists of NIAD, the National Institute of Art & Disabilities. NIAD is a daycare center for disabled adults, many of whom possess a great deal of artistic talent, in addition to their brain disorders.

NIAD is celebrating the contributions of local African-American artists with disabilities in an exhibition that runs through Feb. 25 titled "A Kuumba Visit to NIAD." Kuumba is a Swahili word meaning "creativity," and the show features such prominent NIAD artists as Deatra Colbert, Metrius Englin, Martha Lane, Marlon Mullen, Kevin Randolph and Billy White.

Thirty years ago, there weren't programs connecting the disabled to the world of art. Today, there are dozens, sparked principally by NIAD's founders, Elias Katz and his late wife, Florence Ludins-Katz. Together, the psychologist/painter couple started

IF YOU GO

WHAT: "A Kuumba Visit to NIAD" exhibition of work by disabled artists

WHEN: Through Feb. 25 Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

WHERE: Florence Ludins-Katz Gallery, 551 23rd St., Richmond

INFO: 510-620-0290 or www.niadart.org

several centers in the Bay Area, including Oakland's Creative Growth Art Center, Creativity Explored in San Francisco, and Creativity Unlimited in San Jose.

Adorning NIAD's walls are wall hangings, ceramic masks, even clothing. And there are paintings; vibrant, leap-of-the-wall-at-you-work that is raw and mesmerizing.

"Some of them come and they really show a gift," says Allisen Asercion, NIAD's curator. "They identify themselves as artists. Others come to just pass the time, and everywhere in between."

Out in the community, disabled adults all too often deal with constant neglect and denigration, leading to low self-esteem and depression. "In the studio," writes Elias Katz, founder of NIAD, "each artist with disabilities is treated with respect as a productive, expressive person."

See NIAD, Page C7



NIAD IS celebrating the contributions of local African-American artists with disabilities in an exhibition titled "A Kuumba Visit to NIAD."



JACK TUCKER
Community

Stage is cheery for 'Mousetrap'

LET'S CUT to the right away. We back and ambled some details later. But "The Mousetrap," Agatha Christie's deathless play, it's been playing well in London since 1952, throughout the world, sleek, bang-up triumph, tra Costa Civic Theatre. You know you're watching something special when curtain rises on Mat, elegantly appointed, sign and the audience applauds. You won't see handsome "Mousetrap" on Broadway or by a sional touring company for a good reason.

When a producer screen rights back to \$15,000, he agreed to the movie until the closed in London. Having. And his prize and still shows no signs of rattle.

The film deal also a Broadway production, fessional touring show months after the production closes. So a trap" like Contra Costa Theatre has mounted head of the class.

And classy it is, to. From David Boggs, crisp direction to a whose individual merit their characters to a terrific), this version Christie classic notched mark for quality.

"The Mousetrap" is a group of strangers in an English country turned to upscale local Mollie and Giles (Kendra Lee Oberhaus, Mark Manske), a del sunny couple you'd board with.

It's blizzard on this afternoon as the travel in from the snow. And Christopher Wren (Agnersnick Mrs. Boyle Parker), a genial old Major Metcalf (John Nolan); Miss Caswell (Culbertson), Mr. Parson, well-mannered, well- European (Thomas Trotter (Mark La Riviere).

Nice enough folks. one of them may be derer. Leave it to Dan (who died in 1976) to. And let's follow the tion she gave her first more than half a cen-

"Do not reveal the names of those who have not yet 'The Mousetrap.'"

The show runs all days and Saturdays Feb. 19 with Sunday Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. on Jan. 30. Tickets are \$15 for \$10 for those 16 and Contra Costa Civic Theatre at 951 Pomona Ave., Call 510-524-9132 or www.cccot.org.

Christie's most famous dunit is based on a sketch commissioned by the BBC to commemorate the 80th birthday of Queen Mary. The original "Three Blind Mice."

Because she liked the lence of adapting her more than one genre, turned the radio script into a novelette, also called "Blind Mice." Before it lished, she wrote the play version and changed title to "The Mousetrap" cause of copyright issues within-a-play in "Ham the prince sets a trap the King. She confided friends at the premiere thought the play would last six months.

On his 9th birthday, Christie gave her grand Mathew Prichard, the rights to "The Mousetrap." has seen the show more than two dozen times and sworn to secrecy about identity of the killer. At least a grandson can

Reach Jack Tucker at jtucker@ccctimes.com 262-2768.

Friday Auto Plus

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Artistic supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, January 28, 2005

Section D

V8 Mustang: One of the best new cars to come out in 2005

BY JON ROSNER
SECTION EDITOR

amidst all the talk of the 2005 Mustang looking retro, I went out to a 64 1/2 Mustang V8 at Motors' Walnut Creek Ford, the closest dealer to the Times. The 1964 car looks hand-made. It projects a frisk-at-it attitude. It's attractive then, now. But it also has lots of cues that say "old" which, years of age, it is.

The new 2005 Mustang which we've seen also gives one the sense that it is a frisky car, and the fact is that even if the previous generation did not exist this would be a very attractive car.

From the sweeping headline to the flared fenders that lead to the reverse check in the door to the matching rear fender, the design is balanced. The front is a perfect arc; the rear window, headlight and tail-treatments are very well put out. The cut lines between the sheet metal is a good and stiff the paint and finish is good. The only thing that the appearance was a

driver-side mirror plate that was slightly askew.

Slide inside. The leather seats are nice-looking, comfortable and supportive. The gauges are well-marked and easy to read. The layout of the center console is simple — radio, heat and air conditioning controls are well-labeled and easy to use. The dash top is made of a hard plastic and looks nice, but feels as if they could have been made of a nicer material; ditto for the door panels and door handles. The large aluminum panel that crosses the width of the dash is a nice touch.

Start the car and the V8 echoes a burbling basso thrum that any Ford V8 fan will recognize instantly. The clutch take-up is superb, the short shifter is slightly notchy. The old Ford 289/302 V8 was an overhead valve motor that had bounteous torque on the bottom end of the spectrum and little over 5,000 rpm.

The 4.6 liter motor in this car is fine up to 2,500 rpm, but after that, the engine, she pulls like she sounds, and that is very good indeed. We started out on some nasty off-camber pot-holed roads. A pleasant surprise: The Mustang

not only held the road well, it was quite comfortable. Did Ford steal a suspension guru from Jaguar for this project? The car felt civil, tight and controlled, but civil. We went nowhere near the limits of the car, but noted that we were able to do very well through a few cloverleaf turns. We weren't pushing, we were far enough back that the other cars might not have even noticed, but with inside wheels up high they

The engine, she pulls like she sounds, and that is very good indeed.

were pushing and we were pacing them easily.

The chassis is stiff, nothing like the unlamented wet-noodle "Fox" chassis that the Mustang has suffered with since the late 1970s. Acceleration onto the highway and on the highway were brisk. It was not hard to bring it up to fast traffic speeds, and to stay there in total comfort. Cruising at 70 mph leaves the engine turning a leisurely 2,100



KEN PERKINS/STAFF

2005 MUSTANG GT captures the essence of what a pony car is meant to be, and presents it as a package that better in every way than the model it replaces.

rpm in fifth and the cabin was quiet enough that you could hear the crisp details of the music from the "Shaker 500" MP3 stereo.

The rear seats fit pretty well but force passengers to sit in a very upright position. If you're back there

and you're tall, that could be a problem. The rear quarter window offers a nice view out and makes the back seat feel airy. But getting in and out of the back seat should be left to those under the age of 40.

With the leather seats, the Shaker

sound systems and a few other nice goodies, the list price came to a bit over \$27,000. As a friend of mine who has driven the V8 and knows the industry very well said, "This is a lot of car for not a lot of money." I couldn't say it better.

Bill Ford is in it for love, not money

BY JIM MATEJA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ford Motor Co. has gotten its act house in order. After losing more than \$6 billion combined in 2001 and 2002, the automaker posted a modest profit of \$495 million in 2003. Considering Bill Ford and the recovery and considering he hasn't taken a salary since joining chairman in 2001 after the death of Jacques Nasser, it's not hard to assume that perhaps

Ford is ready to start bringing a paycheck home to the Mrs. every week. "I'm not in it for money, I never have been and never will," he said in an interview.

"Each year the compensation committee on our board sets a salary for me, and each year I argue it's too high (and turn it down). Money doesn't motivate me as much as making progress in delivering on tough objectives," he said. Of course, when the family

name is on the building, it's not just a public — as in shareholders — concern but also a personal one. Ford said when he became chairman, "A lot of people expected me to fail. It was a monumental job and they weren't sure I would make it. Three years later we're making good progress." Refreshing attitude, though scoffing at a weekly stipend probably doesn't win many friends

See FORD, Page 4

FORD MUSTANG GT

Vehicle Type	Four-passenger rear-wheel drive sports coupe
Suggested Retail	\$24,995
Price as Tested	\$27,520
Engine Type	SOHC 24-valve, 4.6-liter V8 w/ESFI
Horsepower	300 at 5,750 rpm
Torque	320 at 4,500 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed manual
Wheelbase	107 inches
Height	55 inches
Curb Weight	3,483 pounds
Fuel Capacity	16 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 17/25

INSIDE

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VIN on 1968 Dodge Coronet reveals manufacturer's details

CLASSIC CLASSICS

BY VERN PARKER
MOTOR MATTERS

According to the Chrysler Registry, 519 Dodge Coronet R/T convertibles were built to American specifications in the 1968 model year. Automatic transmissions were in 431 of the cars, while the remaining 88 were equipped with four-speed manual transmissions. Even more rare was the floor-mounted console between the bucket seats and the Rallye instrument package.

One of these rare muscle cars left the St. Louis assembly plant wearing a coat of bright blue paint with white "bee" stripes stretched across the rear fenders and the width of the trunk lid. The initial part of the Vehicle Identification Number was WS27L8G. Deciphering the VIN reveals: W designates Dodge "B" body, S=Special, 27=Convertible, L=440 V8, four-barrel carburetor, high performance, 8=1968 model, G=St. Louis, Mo., assembly plant.

The handsome convertible, with a white top and white interior, was shipped to the Carbone dealership in Utica, N.Y. There, the window sticker showed a base price of \$3,613, close to a dollar a pound for the 3,630-pound vehicle. Historical details of this car

remained a mystery for the next 30 years.

In the meantime, along about 1974 Kurt Ugone and his brother found a red 1968 Dodge Coronet R/T coupe on a used-car lot near their Virginia home. The mere fact that he didn't possess a driver's license wasn't enough to dissuade the impetuous teenager. His father, however, had different thoughts on the matter.

"He probably saved me from myself," Ugone now acknowledges. The combination of a novice driver and a 375-horsepower car can be a recipe for disaster. Nevertheless, Ugone never forgot the Dodge R/T that got away.

In 2002, he saw a bright-blue 1968 Coronet R/T convertible with a white top and a white interior advertised for sale in Quebec. It had undergone a complete restoration, including the replacement of both quarter panels. The first part of the VIN was WS27L8G. Pictures were sent, a brief negotiating session passed and Ugone bought the car.

The seller delivered the car to the Canadian side of the border and a roll-back truck sent by Ugone waited on the U.S. side of the border. A registered importer was hired to actually take the Dodge across the border. Only after the 17.25-foot-long car had been trucked home did Ugone discover that the odometer had registered



1968 DODGE CORONET is a classic muscle car that retained all of its very rare original parts and was restored properly.

about 89,000 miles.

Following a complete examination, he decided that his Dodge had received a very thorough restoration. Ugone, owner of a body shop, had not been concerned about the body work because he could correct any defects himself. Happily, there was none to correct. "It's a pretty car," he says admiringly.

Keeping the 440-cubic-inch engine operating properly requires 17

quarts of coolant and five quarts of oil. Even with its 19-gallon gasoline tank, Ugone says, "You don't go far." The 6-foot wide muscle car rides on a 117-inch wheelbase. With some of the rear seat passenger space consumed by hinges for the convertible top, the rear seat still measures 4 feet in width.

Ugone was pleased to find his Dodge loaded with goodies, including red-line tires, power

brakes, power steering, right-side mirror, wheelwell molding, rubber bumper guards, AM/8-track sound system, fender-top signal indicators and chrome Magnum 500 wheels. As a bonus, all of the 1968 Dodges had, as standard equipment, front-door wing vents.

After only a couple of years of ownership, the odometer now shows 92,000 miles. "It does get driven," Ugone says, "with a Dana

rear axle." He goes on to mention the enormous V8 engine, most of the engine's power restricting peripheral speed to a football field to turn it.

For your car to become a part of the Classic Car Club, send a photo (frontal and side views) and a brief details and phone number to Vern Parker, 2221 Abbey Vienna, VA 22181. Only good quality will be accepted.

Heading to snow country? Put snow tires on all four wheels

AUTO DOCTOR

BY JUNIOR DAMATO

Dear Doctor: I drive more than 120 miles a day 12 months a year. Because I live in the snowbelt region, I always put snow tires on the front wheels. I went to two different tire shops and neither would sell me snow tires for the front only. Both wanted to sell me snow tires front and rear. They said if I had a rear-wheel drive car they would sell me snow tires for the rear only. What is their logic? **Tom**

Dear Tom: I would suggest four snow tires on front- and rear-drive vehicles. There is a greater possibility of losing control with conventional or all-season tires, versus snow tires. Both shops are looking for your best interest and safety, not just trying to sell

you two additional tires. The other aspect is we live in a lawsuit-happy world. Some people would try and sue the shop that only installed only two snow tires versus all four. With this said, you still may be able to find a shop that will sell and install just two snow tires. For the record, I would not install just two snow tires at my shop either.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1991 Mitsubishi four-cylinder Galant. The spark is weak between the coil and distributor. I replaced the coil, but the spark is still weak. **John**

Dear John: Before replacing parts, the system needs to be checked. The most common problem with your vehicle is distributor failure. I have used both remanufactured and used distributors. If you do not or cannot follow the trouble flow sequence, consult a technician familiar with your vehicle.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1995 Ford

Explorer with 78,000 miles. In cold weather of 40 degrees and below, there is a knocking noise that sounds like it comes from under the floorboard. There is a vibration feeling as well. The noise is more noticeable between 20 to 40 mph. The noise goes away after the first 1/4 mile of driving. During the last two years I have replaced the tires, ball joints, and had the front end checked out by two local shops. The dealer has not been able to duplicate the noise on a road test. Do you have any suggestions? **Mitch**

Dear Mitch: Now that it's winter-time, the dealer or repair shop should be able to locate the source of the vibration/noise. I would look at the driveline universal joints, including the front axle joints and front wheel bearings. I have found both C/V and universal joints that make the noises you describe.

Dear Doctor: I own a 2002 Toyota

Camry that had a 65,000-mile service. To my surprise, less than a month later the car died on the highway. Should Toyota reimburse for the towing and diagnostic services, as well as the money paid for the 65,000 mile service? **Zenaida**

Dear Zenaida: Why would Toyota be responsible for any part of the break down? The car went in for service and a month later it broke down. There are many things that will cause an engine to stall out. Toyota would be responsible only if a replaced part caused the engine to stall out.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1992 Ford Crown Victoria with only 85,000 miles. The car is in very good condition and I am now using it as a second car. About three months ago, both the speedometer and odometer stopped working. I have taken it to a dealer and repair shop. They both say the dash cluster needs replacement at a cost of

\$400. If I want to sell the car what are my legal responsibilities when transferring the title? **William**

Dear William: There are companies that rebuild dash clusters, or you can get a used cluster. As for the selling of the car with the speedometer/odometer not working, the title would read TMU, meaning True Mileage Unknown. That will satisfy the legal portion for the title work. If you go with a used dash cluster and the mileage is not the same as the cluster coming out, again TMU goes on the title.

Dear Doctor: I recently had the oil and filter changed in my 1998 Buick LeSabre. After leaving a quick oil-change shop, I traveled 40 miles and the engine blew a connecting rod through the side of the engine. The shop did an inspection removal of the oil pan and checked to see if there was any discoloration of the crankshaft and

bearings. There were no rings or discoloration. The title not liable for the engine. It shows that this happened due to dry engine starting adding oil. What recourse against the oil change shop of rebuild is around \$420.

Dear Stanley: It's an oil-change company that should do to investigate damage. The fact that no discoloration, or more found tells me there was no dry engine startups. This happened to you there would be evidence coloration on the crank bearings. There is an option at half the price built one.

Send questions to: 3 Court Circle, Lakeland,

New Audi A6: New design, bolder presence

BY STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Aside from that massive what-were-they-thinking grille, the Audi A6, redesigned for 2005, is an across-the-board improvement from the previous model, which was no slouch in its own right. Audi stylists — for the side and rear, anyway — have given the moderately feminine A6 a much bolder presence for '05. Previously known mostly as the model between the smaller A4 and the flagship A8, the A6 gets its own personality at last.

As with many complex individuals, though, it takes a while to get an accurate reading on the A6's personality. The V8 version, with 4.2 liters and 335 horsepower, is the brute, but the test model, with the 255-horsepower, 3.2-liter V6, is more of an all-around athlete. Nimble and light on its feet, the Quattro 3.2 — Quattro signifies all-wheel drive — is equally adept in the city, on the highway, and on winding backroads.

It is not, however, a drag racer. The V6 is exceptionally smooth — arguably, Audi continues to build the smoothest engines of anyone — but weighing in at a deceptive 2 tons, there's quite a bit of A6 mass to move about. The six-speed automatic transmission helps, especially if you use the Tiptronic shift-for-yourself feature. Audi advertises 0 to 60 mph acceleration of 7.1 seconds, which is 1.1 seconds slower than the V8 model.

The A6's throttle tip-in from a standing start is annoyingly abrupt, but once under way, the powertrain matches the rest of the car's substantial sophistication. Most notable inside the car is the Multi Media Interface. It's a joystick-like device in the center of the console that controls multiple functions. It looks a lot like BMW's iDrive, but unlike iDrive, the system can be operated without an engineering degree.

Typically Audi, the interior is pretty and functional. Two adults will be very comfortable in the rear seat, and three won't complain. The wheelbase of the 2005 A6 is 3.3 inches longer than last year's model, and the trunk holds a roomy 15.9 cubic feet of luggage. It's almost at the point where the A6, with its starting price of about \$25,000 more, seems like overkill.


This is not to say the A6 is cheap. The test model starts at \$40,900. And with options that include that navigation system and several other premium features, the bottom line was \$47,120. The V8's starting price is about \$10,000 more, but some features that are optional on the V6 are standard on the V8, such as the neat adaptive, self-leveling Xenon headlights. At the V6's base price, though, the list of standard equip-

ment is still a long one: It includes multiple side air bags, leather upholstery, a 10-speaker sound system with a six-disc CD changer and rain-sensing wipers.

On paper and in practice, Audi has trumped comparable BMW and Mercedes-Benz models. But there's one obstacle to overcome: Audi's reputation for reliability still lags


behind the other two Germans. It may not be a scientific assessment, but I hear more tales of Audi woes from readers than Mercedes and BMW combined. Fix that, and Audi becomes the new European import standard.

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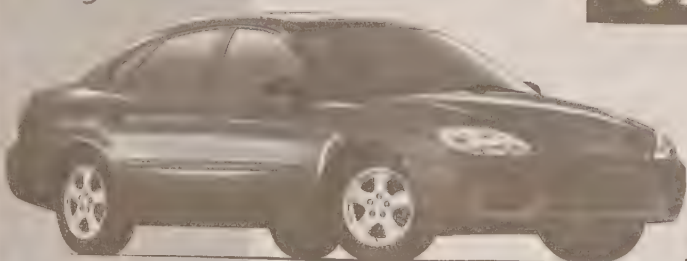
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2005 Acura RSX: one fast sedan

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

The Acura RSX, introduced three years ago, carries on the traditions of the discontinued Integra: affordability, performance and style in a two-door coupe. And just as with the Integra, the RSX has become a darling of the tuner-car set, thanks to lots of aftermarket accessories available for these cars. With a base price less than \$21,000 for the 160-horsepower RSX with five-speed manual transmission, and just over \$24,000 for the sportier S model, these cars are well within the reach of those who have bought Integras in the past.

The RSX is for a car that Acura's dealers demanded. For several years, the company threatened to dump the Integra from its lineup, preferring instead to focus on pushing the brand further upscale and eliminating the only car it sold in the affordable class. The next step up in the Acura line is the \$27,000-plus TSX sedan, and the rest range from just over \$30,000 for the TL sedan to more than \$85,000 for the NSX sports car.

But because dealers were selling so many of the Integras — enough so that the car's demise could have meant the difference between profit and loss for some dealers — Acura decided to replace the Integra with the RSX at a price close to that of the Integra. The RSX competes head-on against cars such as the Mitsubishi Eclipse, whose GT model comes with a 205-horsepower V6 engine, and the new Mercedes-Benz C230 coupe, whose prices begin at just under \$25,000.

For 2005, the only changes are for the uplevel S performance model — our test car — which got 10 more horsepower, as well as some suspension, braking and steering improvements and a new rear spoiler. The base car comes with a 16-valve, double-overhead-cam, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine that uses Acura's variable valve-timing system. It turns out 160 horsepower and 141 foot-pounds of torque, which is adequate for those who aren't consumed by a need for better performance.

Besides the base five-speed manual, an optional five-speed SportShift automatic transmission is available on the base model. For the most fun, though, the S model ratchets the power up quite a bit. Under the hood is a high-output, twin-cam 2.0-liter four-cylinder that now turns out 210 horsepower (up from 2004's 200), and is connected to a six-speed manual gearbox. Because this is a car designed for performance addicts, no automatic is offered. It takes some winding up of this engine to get the most out of it because it doesn't develop its full horsepower until it hits 7,400 rpm. But when it does get going, it's enough to put a smile on the driver's face.

Because of the performance, the S model is the biggest seller, even with the higher price. With what you get, the \$24,000 rings up as quite a bargain for a car with a Honda/Acura pedigree, great styling and performance that beats just about every competitor right out of the box. But even the base RSX is being gobbled up by consumers, in part because there is little difference in the exterior styling of the two versions. Although it has many similarities to the Integra, the RSX got all-new steering and suspension systems — including MacPherson struts up front — for precise sports-car-like handling.

Standard features of all RSX models include automatic climate control, four-wheel antilock disc brakes, leather-wrapped steering wheel, keyless entry, power windows/mirrors/door locks, dual front and side air bags, and simulated suede-trimmed seats. Leather interior is \$875 extra on the base car, but included on the S model. A base RSX with a five-speed automatic transmission and leather interior is a bargain at just less than \$22,000. But for just over \$2,000 more, the Type S brings the six-speed manual, perforated leather seats, uplevel engine, premium audio system and anti-theft system (probably a necessity, considering the popularity of vehicles such as this among car thieves). Outside or inside, fit and finish are typical of Honda products — not flashy, but well thought out, with careful attention to detail and, of course, quality. That's a hallmark of all Honda vehicles, but special care is taken to make the Acuras even better, in keeping with their role as premium vehicles.

There aren't a lot of high-tech features on the car, other than the air bags, antilock brakes and Honda's patented VTEC variable valve-timing system. That's because this car is for driving purists and doesn't have (or really need) such things as electronic stability control or traction control. Even without electronic stability systems, the car corners well.

Still, some of the first improvements tuners make to the car are in the suspension, including better anti-sway bars. As a front-wheel-drive car, the RSX does suffer a bit from torque steer, the tendency of the vehicle to steer in the direction of the wheel that is getting power during quick starts. But the torque-sensing, speed-sensitive power rack-and-pinion steering system helps overcome this deficiency and adds tremendously to the car's great handling characteristics. The front bucket seats are quite comfortable and do a good job of

for a car as sporty as this one. On the S model, the ratings are 24 miles per gallon in the city and 31 on the highway. With the base engine, the numbers are 27 city/33 highway (with manual gearbox).

The fuel tank holds 13.2 gallons of gas. Base models take unleaded regular, while the Type S requires premium fuel. Acura had predicted that the typical RSX buyer would be 26 to 34, with a household income of at least \$60,000 and that 60 percent of buyers of the base model would be men. Another prediction was that 80 percent of the Type S buyers would be men. —(E-mail: chambers(at)express-news.net)

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2005 ACURA RSX has suspension, braking, and steering improvements to go along with its boost in horsepower.

holding the driver in place during performance driving. There is a back seat, but as with most cars in this class, it really is intended for small children or a small- or medium-size dog.

This is a hatchback, rather than a pure coupe, so you can load gear such as skis and other sports equipment easily. The rear seatback has a 50-50 split fold-down feature to expand the cargo capacity. EPA fuel economy ratings are a bit of a surprise

FORD

FROM PAGE 1

in the chairman of the board fraternity. Though making more money, Ford's share of the U.S. market slipped to 19.3 percent in '04 from 20.5 percent in '03.

"We could go hell-bent for market share by using our captive Hertz (rental subsidiary) to sell cars in order to boost the numbers," he said. "But we passed up easy rental fleet sales in order to build up the residual value of our vehicles, a short-term pain that will show up on the profit side." Ford also said he favors "pulling in" sales with new vehicles rather than "pushing in" sales with incentives. He notes the '05 Ford Five Hundred, Freestyle and Mustang and Mercury Montego are all selling well and in short supply without rebates. "We aren't out of the incentive game but are

more rational with incentives. You don't make money giving cars away, that's not a sustainable equation," he said. Chrysler Group President and Chief Executive Dieter Zetsche paints vivid word pictures. Chrysler Group was the only domestic-based manufacturer to increase sales and market share in 2004. Sales rose 4 percent, to 2.2 million, and share edged up 0.2 points, to 13 percent. The favorable results were due in large part to the 300C and Magnum R/T, Hemi-powered versions of the new Chrysler 300 sedan and Dodge Magnum wagon.

"Four years ago we lay on the ground with our throat open because we were the prey. We want to become the predator. We've set benchmark levels so that by 2007 we are as respected as any of the competition," he said in an interview. The popularity of the Hemi-powered sedans has created an unusual situation, Zetsche says, that usually customer up (and price), but supply of cars. Dealers are having customers wait for models. While a 60-day wait is normal, the 90-day wait for the Magnum R/T is not. Not all executive would like the performance, environmental, market.

"We're going high-performance, friendly, environment vehicle. Time because the customers want is that the special. Cho, President Motor Corp., Chicago, Atrium Drive, 60061-1523, including name town, to jrr@

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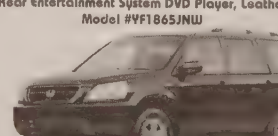


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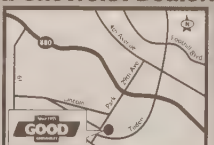
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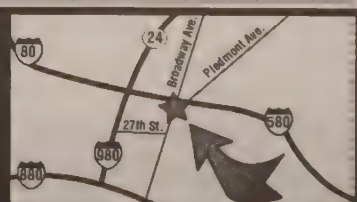
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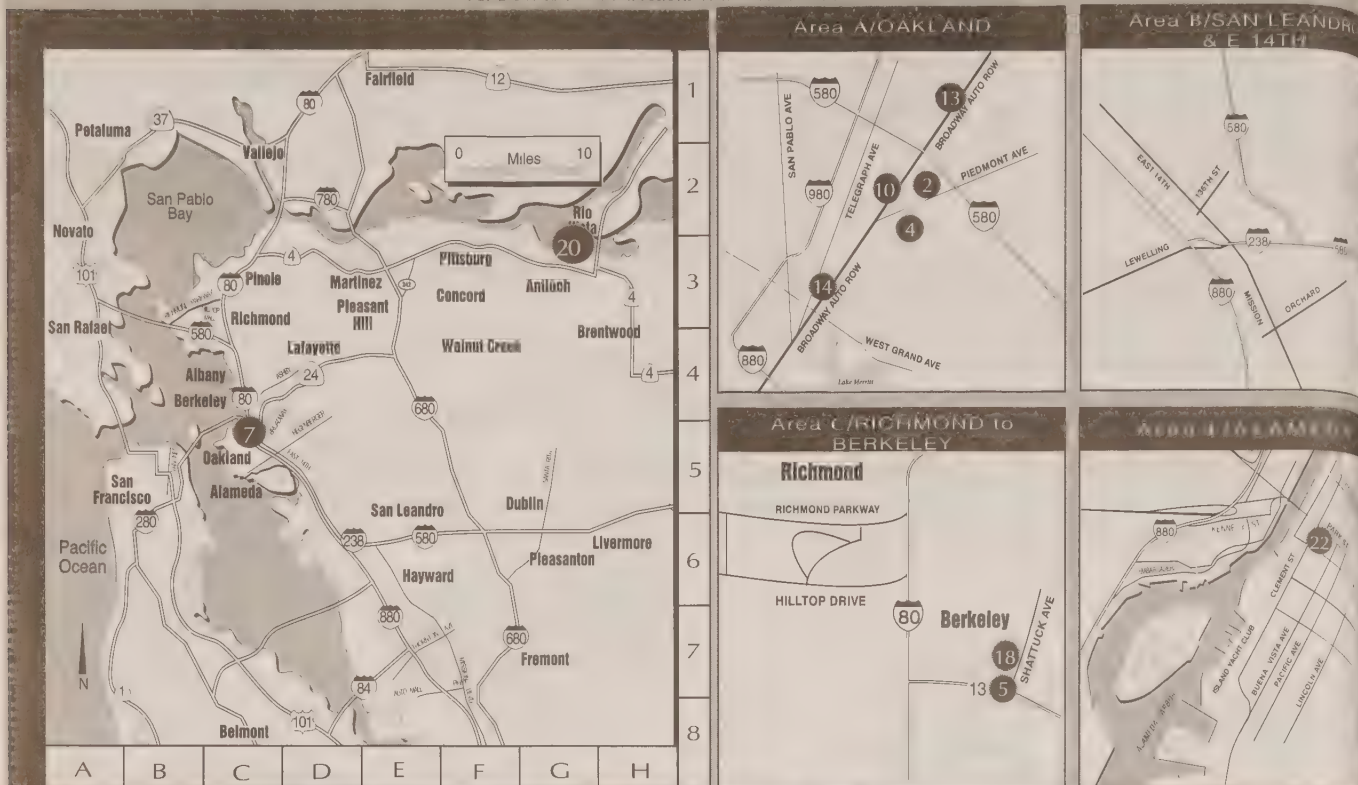
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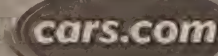
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33 Karen Ln.
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Potted plants, mach.
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dream home?

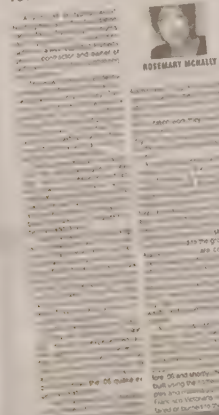
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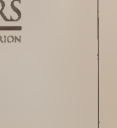
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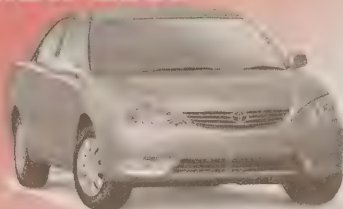
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Shopping Plus

Friday, January 28, 2005

Look inside for local advertising circulars every Friday

The oh-so sweet Super Sunday BUFFET

**FANS YOUNG AND OLD WILL
GET A KICK OUT OF THIS
TASTY MEDITERRANEAN FEAST**

BY ALIZA GREEN
OSO SWEET ONIONS

People in the Mediterranean have been cooking with onions for thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians ate lots of onions and believed they were an aphrodisiac. Maybe that's why they ate them. The Israelites wandering in the wilderness longed for the onions they ate in Egypt. Too bad they never had the chance to taste Sweet Onions, grown at the foot of Chile's Andes Mountains, in perfect growing conditions. Sweet Onions are large, juicy, mild onions with record-high sugar content, texture and mild flavor that won't kick back.

Sweet Onions are in season just in time for the big game. Sweet Onions are needed to enjoy them in a healthy Mediterranean diet. In Jacksonville, home of this Super Sunday, and elsewhere in Florida, people eat more Sweet Onions than anywhere else in the country. These adaptations are mild enough to use in salad, versatile enough to grill, fry or roast. Taste them and you'll be sure to cheer for the people who avoid ordinary onions for OSO Sweet Onions because they contain so little pyruvic acid, a substance that causes tears,

harshness and indigestion. So, you can use as much onion as you like without tearing eyes or onion breath. Onions are always a winner because they contain naturally occurring phytochemicals that reduce the risk of cancer and help protect against heart disease.

Help keep your New Year's resolution to eat healthier with this tasty make-ahead menu, which gets extra points because the whole family gets to watch the game.

Aliza Green, a James Beard Award-winning author, has been a chef and food writer for more than 30 years. Her recent books include "Field Guide to Produce" (Quirk Books) and "Beans: More than 200 Wholesome, Delicious Recipes from Around the World" (Running Press).

OVEN-ROASTED VEGETABLES

1/2 cup olive oil
2 tablespoons chopped garlic
Salt and black pepper to taste
2 tablespoons chopped mixed fresh herbs (or 2 teaspoons dried mixed herbs), such as thyme, oregano, rosemary and marjoram
2 OSO Sweet Onions, peeled and cut into wedges
1 (1-pound) bag baby carrots
1 (1-pound) bag butternut squash chunks
3 colorful bell peppers, cut into



CELEBRATE SUPER SUNDAY with these delicious recipes: caramelized onion pizza, above; oven roasted vegetables, top right; Mediterranean white bean salad, background bottom right, and chicken portobello, foreground bottom right.

chunks
2 zucchini and/or yellow squash, cut into chunks
1 eggplant, cut into chunks (optional)
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Whisk together olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper and herbs. Toss with vegetables.
Arrange vegetables in single layer on baking sheets. Roast 20 minutes, stir and then roast 10 minutes longer or until browned and crusty.
Makes 8 servings.
Chef's Tip: To get best brown crust, broil vegetables last 5 minutes of cooking, keeping close eye

on them so they don't burn.

GREEK MEATBALLS WITH YOGURT SAUCE

1 pint plain yogurt, preferably whole milk
Juice of 1 lemon
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint (or 1 teaspoon crumbled dried mint)
Salt and black pepper to taste
2 slices of bread without crusts, soaked in water till mushy
2 pounds ground beef or pork
1/2 OSO Sweet Onion, grated
1 egg

See BRUNCH, Page 2



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Update the English country style for today

One of the most popular decorating styles of the past few decades has been the English country look. Characterized by its comfort, timelessness and livability, English country style is sophisticated without being pretentious. But today, according to the design experts at Stroheim & Romann, the high-end resource for decorative fabrics, wallpapers and trimmings, this look has evolved into one that is cleaner, lighter, less cluttered, and more suited to the way we live now. Here are Stroheim & Romann's tips for updating English country rooms:

■ The essence of English country style used to be an abundance of large floral prints. Now, instead of combining several florals in a room, choose one strong pattern, and use it as the focal point. Mix it with crisp stripes or checks and textured solids for a fresh new look.

■ Often the most elegant window treatments are simple drapery panels, opulently full and hung from ceiling to floor. Use wood or metal rods and rings, used alone or paired with Roman shades in textured or sheer fabrics.

■ To create a more relaxing, modern ambiance, keep the color palette simple, and even somewhat monochromatic, rather than mixing several vibrant colors. Especially effective are warm neutrals with complementary color accents.

■ Choose your fabrics and furnishings with comfort and practicality in mind. Furniture that is uncomfortable has no place in an English country-style home. Look for deep-seated sofas and chairs in hard-wearing and lush fabrics such as chenilles, velvets, brocades and tapestries.

■ English Country rooms often incorporate an eclectic mix of furnishings. Traditional furniture can blend well with clean-lined, more contemporary shapes, formal pieces can be paired with casual and varying textures and materials can be played off one another for a fresh, timely look.

■ Simple, neutral-toned floor coverings or polished hardwood floors will give rooms a newer, sparer look than densely patterned carpets, and help individual pieces of furniture stand out.

■ English Country style often includes an abundance of design details, such as decorative moldings, mantels and other architectural elements. Even if your room is devoid of these details, you can give it elegance and personality through the use of trimmings and wallpaper.

■ Although English Country rooms are usually romantic and filled with mementos and treasured collectibles, the look has evolved into one that is less cluttered. Choose a few accessories that can be showcased effectively for a look that says "less is more."

Stroheim & Romann fabrics, wallpapers, and trimmings are available through interior designers and design showrooms. For information, call 718-706-7000, or visit www.stroheim.com.

A FRESH TAKE on English Country style, this room features classic furnishings and rich details set off by a simple rug and window treatments and pared-down accessories.



Moving to your new home

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS

Organization is the key to an easy move, so plan your move carefully. If you hire a professional mover, choose one with a good performance record. Make sure to seek written estimates and references from several moving companies before making your final decision. Here are some tips for a successful, hassle-reduced move.

Ask your mover about the company policy on breakage. Standard moving company insurance may pay only a percentage of the cash value of broken items. Full protection will cost more but may be worth the added expense if you are moving fragile and valuable items. Tell your moving company up front about any special requirements your move will involve. And, remind them the day of the move.

Typically, the actual cost of your move is determined by weighing your belongings after they have been loaded into the van, plus charges for packing, insurance and other items. If the cost turns out to be higher than the estimate, the company will notify you. When moving short distances, the moving cost may be determined by the number of hours times and hourly rate.

If the moving company is doing the packing for you, it will take place one or two days before the van is loaded. Supervise packing and all phases of

the move. Do not expect to pack plants, firewood or flammable items.

You can save money by packing items yourself. You may be able to buy boxes and packing materials from the moving company. However, the boxes you pack may not be covered by the mover's insurance. So ask.

Work out a floor plan for your new home so that the mover can place beds, tables and other heavy items where you want them. Movers will follow your directions on furniture placement. This is not the time to experiment; do not keep changing your mind about where you want the piano to go.

If you do not hire a professional mover and prefer to move yourself, plan carefully. Before you rent a truck and call your friends to help, figure out approximately how much you have to move, where you are going to put it in your new home and if any items will require special handling.

Pay careful attention to details. You don't want damaged belongings to dampen the excitement of moving into your new home. Moving can be very tiring, so don't feel you must unpack every box the minute the truck leaves.

Before you move, pack for your family as if you were going to stay in a hotel for a few nights. Also pack a box with some bedding, eating utensils

and cooking items. With thoughtful planning, you should be able to survive comfortably amid the clutter for an evening or two.

Remember, eventually all of the boxes will be unpacked, all of your belongings will be in their proper places and you will be able to relax and enjoy your new home. The better prepared you are the less stressful your move will be.

To learn more about planning your move, finding a qualified mover or for additional packing tips, please visit the Moving section of Home-Store.com or the American Moving & Storage Association Web site. The American Moving & Storage Association also provides arbitration for moving companies who are members of their association.

Complaints? The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, a division of the Department of Transportation, addresses consumer complaints ranging from failure to deliver or damaged property to property being held for bogus, exorbitant charges on interstate residential moves.

If you feel that you have been victimized by a moving company during an interstate move, call 888-368-7238 or fill out an online complaint form at www.888-dot-saft.com. To file a complaint for an intrastate move, please contact your local Public Utilities or Service Commission.

Brunch

FROM PAGE 1

1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano (or 1 teaspoon dried oregano)

Vegetable oil for browning
1 cup water
Whisk together yogurt, lemon juice, mint, salt and pepper. Store in refrigerator, up to 3 days.

Squeeze excess moisture from bread. Mix together bread, ground meat, onion, egg, oregano, salt and pepper. Form into 6 dozen small meatballs.

Heat oil in large skillet. Brown meatballs on all sides at moderate heat. Pour off any fat from pan. Add water to pan and scrape up any browned bits from bottom.

Simmer meatballs about 10 minutes or until liquid is syrupy. Serve with toothpicks and dunk into yogurt sauce.

Makes 6 dozen small meatballs.
Chef's Tip: To form meatballs, use melon baller to scoop mixture. Then, dip your hands in water and roll meatballs into rounded shape.

CARAMELIZED ONION PIZZA
4 OSO Sweet Onions, sliced
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme (or 1 teaspoon dried thyme)
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup pitted black olives, sliced
1 cup grated Romano cheese
1 pizza dough round
1/2 cup sliced sun-dried tomatoes

In large skillet, cook onions, thyme, allspice, salt and pepper in olive oil at moderate heat until juices are released. Keep cooking, stirring occasionally, until onions are lightly browned, about 30 minutes. Cool to room temperature.
Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Spread onions over dough round, leaving 1-inch border all around. Sprinkle with olives and cheese and bake 15 minutes or until browned and bubbling. Just before serving, sprinkle pizza with sun-dried tomatoes.

Makes 8 servings.
Chef's Tip: Brush border of pizza with olive oil for shiny brown crust.

MEDITERRANEAN WHITE BEAN SALAD

6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
2 cans or jars (15 ounces each) cooked white beans
1/2 cup diced roasted red peppers
1/2 cup diced celery
1/2 OSO Sweet Onion, diced
1/2 cup chopped Italian parsley
Blend oil, vinegar, salt and pepper till smooth and creamy. Drain and rinse beans. Drain again. Toss beans, red peppers, celery and onion with dressing. Taste for seasoning. Just before serving, toss with parsley.

Makes 8 servings.
Chef's Tip: If you make salad ahead, season just before serving with few drops of vinegar and sprinkle of salt and pepper to brighten flavor.

CHICKEN PORTOBELLO
4 pounds chicken leg quarters (or 4-pound roaster chicken, cut-up)
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup olive or vegetable oil
1 OSO Sweet Onion, sliced
1 tablespoon minced garlic
4 portobello mushroom caps, sliced
2 tablespoons fresh chopped oregano (or 2 teaspoons dried oregano)
2 tablespoons flour

1 cup red wine
1 (28-ounce) can tomatoes
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Drain and rinse chicken. Pat dry. Coat with salt and pepper. In baking pan and roast or until juices run clear at thickest point.
Meanwhile, in Dutch oven, heat olive oil and lightly brown in garlic, cook together, and add mushrooms. Continue cooking 5 minutes or until mushrooms are browned. Stir in flour and cook 1 minute. Reduce heat and simmer or until thickened. Add any cooking juices to sauce. Simmer together longer. Serve over rice.

Makes 8 servings.
Chef's Tip: Substitute chicken stock plus 1/2 cup red wine vinegar for red wine.

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The hearth appliances of today are more popular — and advanced — than ever. Available in sizes and shapes to fit virtually any room or corner of your home, today's fireplaces and freestanding stoves give you a great deal more than a source of heat — they are literally design statements. Traditional or ultra-modern, fueled by gas, wood, or pellets, they are standard features in more than half of the new homes built (nearly 1.8 million expected for 2004).

According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA), new home buyers rank a fireplace among the three features they want most, along with outdoor porches and upgraded kitchens. Comments of hearth appliances have grown 500 percent since 2001. Gas-fueled products represent two-thirds of all new fireplace purchases, and technological advances such as direct-vent fresh air and ventless gas systems can actually heat the whole house.

Nearly three-quarters of all facelift fireplaces are installed at the time of new home construction; the time to make changes is before a house is built. Contractors will choose a very basic, economical fireplace, so it's up to you to make it known from the outset that the fireplace is important to you and that you want to explore options for

According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA), new home buyers rank a fireplace among the three features they want most.

an upgrade. HPBA studies have found that a fireplace typically adds \$12,000 in value while also enhancing your home.

Where do you begin

There are some 3,200 hearth specialty retail stores across the U.S., many with National Fireplace Institute (NFI) certified installers on staff. These retailers are the source for all the information a homeowner needs on the types and sizes of products available as well as on the all-important local code and regulation data. Unlike many appliances you purchase, hearth products don't lend themselves to do-it-yourself installation, so rely on an HPBA member retailer.

Consider the options

You need to keep an open mind about whether a wood burning, elec-

tric or gas fireplace best suits your lifestyle and needs. Non-wood burning units add flexibility by allowing installation and safe use without the requirement of a chimney. Direct vent technology enables the expulsion of gas fireplace emissions out the side of a house. Electric and vent-free fireplaces need no venting.

New materials and accessories make the fireplaces of today easier to maintain, more fuel-efficient and eye-catching. The wide range of fuel and venting choices as well as unusual sizes, shapes and designs enable the hearth appliance to be customized and readily installed literally anywhere you choose: bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, family and living rooms — even hallways. And outdoor hearth products such as firepits, chimineas and patio heaters are now being sold in record numbers.

Not your grandfather's fireplace

Get with it, and find out just how far fireplaces have evolved. For more information, or the location of a professional retailer in your market, visit www.hpba.org.

FIREPLACES ARE MUCH MORE than simply a place to light a fire, they have become an important element in our quality of life at home.



METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Ten ways to add value to your home

MS
Whether you're interested in making a resale investment or just want to enhance your living space, industry experts agree there are a number of easy ways you can add value to your home.

"Home improvement projects always equate to increasing the value of your house," says Don Zeman, host of the home improvement radio show, "Homefront with Don Zeman." "Whether you're replacing an old dishwasher with a newer, energy-efficient model or simply adding crown molding to a bedroom, every activity you do

means you're investing in the future of your home."

A contractor and builder for 25 years before starting his nationally syndicated radio show, Zeman knows the best ways to add value to a house. "Research shows that major remodeling projects like adding a bathroom or renovating a basement definitely pay off when it comes time to selling your home," says Zeman. "Those are big projects. Homeowners need to understand that smaller and medium-sized projects can also have huge benefits."

According to Zeman, there are

10 extremely positive home improvement projects that can make life in your current home more enjoyable in the short-term and pay big dividends when selling the home in the future.

Project 1

Create a designated home office space. Whether it's just part of a room partitioned off with an obscure acrylic block wall to create a private nook or an entire room, home offices are an essential part of today's living. The multi-functional space can be used for children to study, paying bills, writing or for a home business.

Project 2

Treat your ceilings as the fifth wall in a room. Accent and embellish them with beaded boards, paints or decorative finishes. Consider adding a lightweight urethane ceiling medallion from Fypon around ceiling lights and fans. Two-piece medallions snap into place in less than five minutes to add more ambience to a room.

Project 3

Invest in your lawn. Nothing

puts forth a better first impression than a well-manicured lawn and continuously-maintained shrubs and flower beds. If you're selling your home, a buyer immediately forms his opinion of how well you have taken care of the interior by the look of the exterior.

Project 4

Replace old, leaky windows with energy efficient vinyl windows. Energy Star compliant windows help save on heating and cooling bills all year long. And, for added safety and security, consider Simonton StormBreaker Plus impact-resistant windows. Much like a car windshield, when broken the glass in these windows adheres to a heavy invisible plastic interlayer, thus reducing the damage inside the home from storms or crime attempts.

Project 5

Expand living space by adding a deck or sunroom. Increasing the amount of usable space in a home always equates to adding more value. Whether it's placing an awning over a patio area, converting a screened-in porch to a sunroom or adding a deck, the creation of more living space makes life more enjoyable for you now and adds an appealing selling feature for the future.

Project 6

Remove mildew from your home's exterior and prevent it from coming back. Start by killing any mildew by using a garden sprayer and JOMAX, which contains an EPA-registered mildewicide that kills mildew without harming your siding, shrubs or grass. After killing the mildew, prevent it from coming back by using PERMA-WHITE Mold and Mildew-Proof Exterior Paint.

Project 7

Trim out exterior windows and doors. If you have old, rotting wood around windows (or no trim at all) install all-weather millwork. Fypon cellular PVC trim resists insects, rot and termites, making it an ideal low-maintenance product.

Project 8

Upgrade the master bathroom with a tub window. Made of durable acrylic blocks, Hy-Lite's fixed and operable windows provide privacy in the bathroom while allowing light into the room. A decorative bathroom window over the

tub serves as a focal point in the room.

Project 9

Replace rotted columns and porch posts with fiberglass columns. When you start spending several weekends each year repairing and repainting exterior rail systems and columns, it's time to invest in low-maintenance fiberglass columns. Structural load-bearing columns from Dixie-Pacific are an affordable investment. Options include columns with lifetime finishes to eliminate painting and a variety of styles to complement any home design.

Project 10

Bump out to a bay or bow window. Along with adding extra living space, bay and bow windows add instant visual interior and exterior appeal to homes. People value the extended space that can highlight a holiday tree, a window seat or simply adds more light to the home.

For more information visit www.homefront.com.



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Weekend bathroom make-over

Who has time for extensive home remodeling projects these days?

Many homeowners are looking for fast improvements that can be tackled over a weekend. Many rooms of the house — including the bathroom — can be made over in just a few short days.

If your bathroom could use a few cosmetic improvements, there are simple steps you can take for a big impact:

■ Throw away any accessories that you don't use regularly. Clutter can drag down the look of any room.

■ Freshen the color of the bathroom with a new coat of paint in a semi-gloss finish. This finish will help repel moisture and will be easier to clean. You may also want to choose a paint that offers mildew resistance.

■ Lay a new floor. New products can actually be installed over existing flooring. Interlocking tile products take the guesswork out

of tiling and don't require mortar. Simply lock into place and use the mousse-like grout to finish.

■ Choose new accessories that coordinate with your style. Look for similar finishes on faucets, towel bars, wastebaskets and a tissue holder.

■ Clean, clean, clean. Scrub shower tiles and the bathtub. Dirt and soap scum will be more obvious against freshly painted walls.

■ Install shelving for storage or decorative accents. A glass shelf will

look inconspicuous on a bathroom wall and complement the room.

■ Consider new lighting. Task lighting as well as overall lighting can transform the space.

■ Choose soft and luxurious bath mats and towels in coordinating colors. This can give an elegant aura to the room. Roll some decorative towels and display in a basket.

■ Replace draperies and shower curtains with new designs to update your look.

■ Indulge in fragrant bath salts and beads to give the bathroom a spa-like feel. Plus, add them to your bath to reward yourself for a job well done.



ARA CONTENT

AROUND THE HOUSE

Trendy colored blocks

Add a splash of color. That's the advice designers generally give to homeowners looking to set their homes apart. How can you do that without painting your walls lime green or adding fuchsia rugs to your house? Start with colorful acrylic block windows, partitions and radius walls. "There's a bit of flair added when someone chooses to use blue, rose or green acrylic block colors as an accent in a home," says Sherry Mitchell, IIDA, an interior design specialist out of Jamestown, N.C. "Colored blocks add style and diffuse colored light into a room. From a design standpoint, it's also fun to combine colored and clear or frosted wave acrylic blocks to create a focal area in a home."

Colored acrylic block units from Hy-Lite Products — available in green wave, blue wave, rose wave and peach wave — can all be used to create custom designed fixed and operable windows, partitions and radius walls. "Imagine the fun of having a forest motif family room with green blocks that signify the relaxing feel

of trees and grass," says Mitchell. "Or, a radius shower wall with blue and frosted wave blocks in an ocean wave design. The ideas are endless."

"One of the best features I've found with working with colored blocks is how the natural sunlight coming through the blocks at different times of the day changes the mood of a room. Soft morning sunlight traveling through green block filters and reflects light beautifully; later in the day the darker colors of sunset really bring out the deeper elements of the green shades."

Available nationwide, Hy-Lite products are pre-fabricated in the company's manufacturing facilities. This eliminates the need to mortar blocks individually on the job site. Because the blocks are more than 70 percent lighter in weight than conventional glass blocks, they can be used in almost any location in the home. Whether selected as an operable casement or awning window for a kitchen, or a large picture window over a garden tub, acrylic block units add color, drama and style to any room in the home.

For more information, call 877-712-4013 or visit www.Hy-Lite.com.

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Marble Basics 101

If you are considering a home-

improvement project, why not find a way to incorporate marble into your design scheme? With a variety of patterns and colors at your disposal, marble offers endless creative possibilities.

Marble has both scientific and commercial definitions. Scientific marble was originally limestone that was transformed into marble by intense pressure and high temperatures within the earth. This altered its crystalline structure and introduced other minerals that produced varied colors and veining. Commercially, any stone that takes a polish (with the exception of granite) is classified as marble. Examples include travertine, onyx, serpentine and limestone.

As a natural stone, marble can be used in many areas of the home. Common uses include interior and exterior wall cladding, interior and exterior paving, fireplace facing and hearth, bathroom vanity tops, residential countertops, table tops, flooring, statues and other novelty items.

While marble is a great product, there are some steps to take to ensure its long life in your home. Here are some cleaning tips, courtesy of the American Marble Institute of America, to give your marble maximum beauty:

Do's and don'ts

Do use coasters, glasses, particularly containing alcohol or citrus. Many common foods ages contain acids that dull the stone.

Don't place hot items on the marble surface. Mats under table settings minimize scratches.

Do dust marble floors. Do clean surfaces with detergent or stone soap.

Do blot spills immediately. Don't clean marble with gar, lemon juice or other that contain acid.

Do protect floor surfaces with non-slip mats or area rugs.

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A 'primer' on different paint types

ARA
You've picked out a color, purchased brushes and rollers and are ready to decorate several rooms in the house with a fresh coat of paint.

But how do you know which surface calls for latex rather than oil-based paint? A semi-gloss finish instead of eggshell or flat? And does it even matter?

"Whether you choose latex or oil-based, and sheen level make a difference in both the decor and maintenance of a room," says Lou Manfredini, national home improvement expert and Ace Hardware's "Helpful Hardware Man." Following is a quick "primer" on the different choices in paint you'll find at the local hardware store.

Latex versus oil-based (alkyd) paint

The first step is deciding between the two most popular types of paint resins: latex or oil-based. The popular choice when painting interior surfaces such as walls and

ceilings is latex — it's water-based and durable, dries fast, is low in odor, applies easily with a brush or roller and cleans up with soap and water.

Oil-based paint, also called alkyd paint, goes on smoother and resists wear and tear in the long term better than latex. However, it also tends to have a stronger odor, takes longer to dry and must be cleaned up with a solvent such as paint thinner.

Levels of sheen

Both latex and oil-based paints are available in a variety of different glosses, which determines the luster or shininess of dry paint. The sheen of paint also determines its ability to hide flaws and how easy it is to clean.

Eggshell and satin finishes

Try an eggshell or satin paint finish in rooms the family uses most frequently, such as kitchens, bathrooms, children's bedrooms, hallways and the garage. "Eggshell and satin finishes offer

subtle sheen on walls, are very durable, and make clean up a snap," Manfredini adds.

Semi-gloss finishes

Semi-gloss finishes are great on kitchen cabinets, the front door, banisters, railings and windowsills and work great at highlighting details in trim and decorative molding. Semi-glosses can be used in children's rooms and on doors, woodwork or trim. They also are great in bathrooms, where high levels of moisture are prevalent.

Flat finishes

"If your wall is nicked or marred with dents, you'd be better off selecting a paint with a lower level of sheen," Manfredini recommends. "Flat paints have very little sheen to no shine and do the best job of hiding surface imperfections."

With nearly all flat paints, stain removal can be more difficult, so flat paint is usually used in areas that require little or no washing, such as ceilings or in closets, adult bedrooms and formal living rooms and dining rooms.

However, if you're searching for a rich-looking flat paint with the washability of a semi-gloss, there is a new paint product on the market that actually resists stains. Ace Sensations with Scotchgard Protector is the first premium acrylic latex flat paint that resists common household stains such as coffee, grape juice and even hard-to-remove oily spots made by lipstick and grease. These stains, as well as dirt and grime, simply wash off the wall with soap and water.

One last tip to consider: Painting a white color onto an already white ceiling can be a challenge for even the most experienced painting pro. To take the guesswork out of painting ceilings, consider a product like Ace's Simply Magic Ceiling Paint, which uses a special chemical additive to brush on blue but dries pure white. The blue color makes it easy to apply paint evenly, and transforms into a pure white matte finish within 24 hours.

For more expert painting advice from the "Helpful Hardware



ARA CONTENT

USING THE RIGHT TYPE of paint for your walls can make all the difference in the finished project.

Man" himself, log on to www.acehardware.com and click on "The Helpful Hardware Man's Corner." Simply e-mail your home improvement question and Manfredini will send you a personal response within 48 hours whenever possible.

USING interlocking concrete pavers to create an exciting surface relies on a technique that the Romans used to build their roads.



NAPSI

Pavers add style and flexibility to landscaping

NAPSI
Many homeowners desire the high-end look of stone on their property's walks and driveways at more modest concrete prices. One way to do this is with interlocking concrete pavers—a pavement type that is growing in popularity.

Also called segmental paving, the basic technique is as classic as the roads of the Roman empire. Interlocking concrete pavers use high-strength, durable concrete units that interlock together to form a patterned surface which can be put into service immediately.

Pavers are manufactured in various shapes, textures and colors. A big benefit of pavers is that

they can be removed and re-installed. They are often used in walkways, patios, driveways, plazas and downtown renovations.

Concrete pavers are available in a wide range of styles. Paver units are often used in historic restoration projects, such as streets in historic areas. Since paver units are uniform in size, they offer a smoother ride and are easier to repair than their historic cobblestone counterpart.

The popularity of pavers is expanding rapidly in the United States and Canada. There is plenty of growth to go; in Europe there are 10 square feet of pavers installed per person annually, how-

ever, in North America it is not even two square feet per person. In the Netherlands most of the streets and sidewalks are pavers.

Dayton, Ohio and Toronto, Ontario, are two of many cities that have used concrete pavers in historic neighborhoods to enhance the area's image and support the investment by residents in their homes.

The ability to produce pavers in a wide variety of shapes and

colors makes it possible to use them in colorful, attention-grabbing ways that can add to the character of a home. For example, Overtown, Florida, created an urban park that used pavers in patterns and colors taken from Kente Cloth, a non-repetitive weave from North Africa.

To learn more about using concrete pavers in a patio or driveway, visit www.icpi.org.



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Five easy tips for kitchen makeovers

Looking for ways to upgrade the look of your kitchen without breaking your budget? Design experts at Style Solutions recommend adding durable urethane millwork products for fast and easy transformations. Since urethane resists moisture and high humidity, it's ideal for embellishing your kitchen.

Try these tips to add pizzazz to your kitchen

Tip #1: Look up. Is your kitchen ceiling boring? If so, add decorative moldings and ceiling medallions. New Miterless Molding Systems require only straight cuts with no mitering, so installation is quick and simple. And, if you have a ceiling fan or light, you can add a two-piece ceiling medallion around the fixture in less than 10 minutes.

Tip #2: Add brackets, corbels and pediments to the top of cabinets or under kitchen islands to

give a more finished and decorative look to the room. These pieces can be painted, stained or faux finished to complement your kitchen décor.

Tip #3: Add distinct accent pieces. A small wall niche inserted between the studs provides the perfect space for a flower arrangement.

Tip #4: Top your windows and doors with elegant crossheads and pediments. Don't limit the use of these unique pieces to the exterior of your home — bring the beauty of these decorative pieces inside and dress up your kitchen by installing them above your kitchen door and windows.

Tip #5: Create extra shelf space for spices, knickknacks, candles and plants by using simple corbels or brackets with lightweight boards to make shelves.

For more inspiration and ideas for kitchen transformations, visit www.stylesolutionsinc.com or call 800-446-3040 to request literature.



A MITERLESS MOLDING
System from Style Solutions was installed in this kitchen, giving the room an elegant appearance.

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Create a backyard oasis with water

Water gardens

Water gardens are becoming one of the most popular elements integrated into landscape projects. Not only do they increase property value, but the soothing sound of running water creates a relaxing atmosphere. Water gardens can easily be created in all shapes and sizes and can be designed to fit virtually any existing landscape.

By incorporating a variety of decorative rocks and plants, homeowners can add their own personal touch to the garden. There are many options available at home centers to create the ideal water garden. From do-it-yourself kits to professional land-

scaping, homeowners on any budget can easily recreate their favorite garden scene in their back yard.

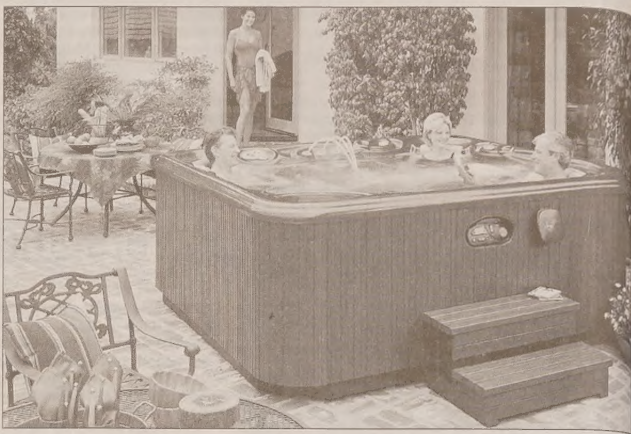
Water fountains

With the increase in home sales and new home production, many homeowners are facing the challenge of limited outdoor space in exchange for a larger house. A decorative fountain can enliven a patio, deck or back yard of any size with the sound of running water. Fountain options are seemingly endless, ranging from ground-level, trickling water spouts to statues with flowing water cascading into large basins.

For tight spaces, choose a one-piece fountain with the water falling

into an attached basin. For a decorative approach, surround a fountain with flowering plants in a secluded corner and a variety of outdoor foliage.

Water is an integral part of creating a peaceful home environment. By utilizing water features actively with spas, water gardens, fountains, homeowners can create an individual and inviting atmosphere in their outdoor space. For information on how to integrate yard spas, or to utilize large dimensional backyard spas, visit www.hotspring.com.



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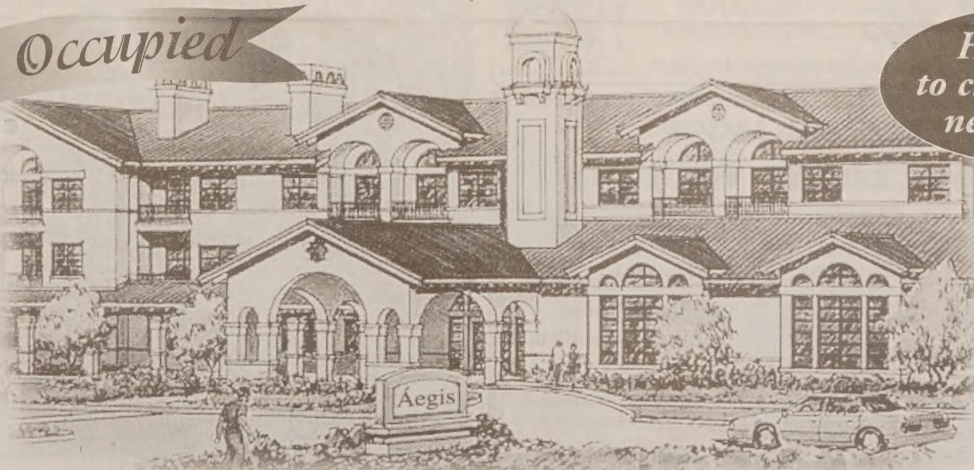
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